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## COLONIAL TRADE.

If there is one thing more certain than another regarding the future export-trade of the United Kingdom it is that the population of our Empire beyond the seas will be our best customers. We back them up, buy their raw products, and they take our manufactures in exchange. This will go on increasingly, and, so far as THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST is concerned, the encouragement of colonial trade has been one of its strong points from the outset, while through the annual Colonial Issue we give an exceptional opportunity for advertisers to increase their business with the colonies. This issue will be on April 30, and, in addition to those who receive it weekly, it will be sent to all buyers of druggists' goods in India, Burmah, Straits Settlements, South Africa, China, Japan, and the West Indies. The publisher will be happy to give any inquirer full information regarding this important issue.

\* \* \* \*

Firms preparing supplements for our Summer Number are advised that this will be published on July 30. Twelve thousand will be required.



A DEMONSTRATION of water-analysis is described on p. 497.

NEW FACTS about Maclagan's cocaine-tests are mentioned on p. 511.

SEVERAL Bills which interest manufacturers are mentioned on p. 521.

THE ETYMOLOGY of LAUDANUM is discussed by Mr. C. C. Bell on p. 523.

THERE were more tinctures than ever exported from Great Britain during 1897 (p. 516).

THE DISCUSSION on the proposed Assistants' Union based on "Toecin's" stirring letter proceeds (p. 524).

THE DRUG AND CHEMICAL MARKETS are quiet this week. Cod-liver oil has gone a trifle higher (p. 516).

THE quality of Java quinine, the scarcity of fenugreek seed, and the adulteration of lemongrass oil are noted on p. 517.

THE STORY of our Customs duties has been told in a bulky blue-book, from which we pick out a few details (p. 510).

TWO APPRENTICES have been fined under the Pharmacy Act for selling Winslow's syrup and Towle's chlorodyne (p. 505).

SWEET SPIRIT of NITRE and cream of tartar have been the subjects of actions under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act (pp. 506-7).

THE present position of our Corner for Students' tournament is shown on p. 490. It finishes with the current month's exercise.

PERSONS interested will, by authority of the Medical Council, be able to inspect the British Pharmacopœia before it is published (p. 509).

GLASGOW chemists are not enthusiastic about the Pharmacy Bill, Mr. McKellar says (p. 523), and it has got no further in the House (p. 507).

THE Chemical Section of the London Chamber of Commerce met this week and discussed the spirit laws and prospective legislation (p. 521).

THE distillation of phosphorus at 212° F. and Dr. Bauer on rare metals were the principal subjects dealt with at the Chemical Society's meeting (p. 493).

How the German pharmaceutical manufacturer gets an advantage over the British one by the permission to use duty-free alcohol is shown in an article on p. 510.

THE LORD MAYOR of MANCHESTER has replied to our comments on his former pharmaceutical speech at a Liverpool chemists' dinner, where he was a guest (p. 513).

ONE of Professor Munyon's living examples of the efficacy of his cures resented the publication of her alleged testimonial, but failed to get damages in the Glasgow Sheriff's Court (p. 505).

THE efforts of the President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland to get the question of company pharmacy before the Select Committee of the House of Lords on the Companies Acts are set forth in full on p. 501.

THE BOARD of INLAND REVENUE inform us that they cannot in future allow medicines described as "mixture for coughs," and such like, to go unstamped, though they will still permit "cough-mixture" to be used (p. 508).

REPORTS and meetings of companies bulk largely on pp. 502-3. Amongst them are the United Alkali Company, Price's Candle Company, Spratts' Patent, Johnson, Matthey & Co., A. J. White, and the Anglo-Sicilian Sulphur Company.

PORTRAITS are given of the late Mr. J. J. Snook (Wilcox & Co.) (p. 515), of the late Mr. R. H. Mitchell (Liverpool) (p. 503), and of the late Mr. Alfred Bown Taylor, a noted American pharmacist (p. 516). Also of two of Messrs. Maw's old hands, who retire (p. 503).



CONDUCTED BY RICHARD J. MOSS, F.C.S., F.I.C.

#### REPORTS.

THE mixture of salts distributed for analysis last month consisted of 2 parts of zinc sulphate, 1 of manganese sulphate, and 1 of potassium chromate.

The calculated composition of this mixture was :—

Zn ...	...	...	...	11.33
Mn ...	...	...	...	5.70
K ...	...	...	...	10.02
SO <sub>4</sub> ...	...	...	...	26.68
CrO <sub>4</sub>	...	...	...	14.98
H <sub>2</sub> O	...	...	...	31.29

100.00

Traces of iron, sodium, and chlorine were present as impurities.

Portions of the mixture were sent to 68 applicants, and 40 reports of analyses were received in reply. The failures in the detection of the several constituents of the mixture were:—Zinc, 10; manganese, 16; potassium, 6; sulphuric acid, 1; chromium, 4. Five students reported chromium present as a base, and not in the form of an acid radicle.

This exercise illustrates the importance of that part of a qualitative analysis generally known as the preliminary examination, or examination in the dry way. The colour of the powder and of its solution almost established the fact that a chromate was present. When a minute portion of the salt was mixed with sodium carbonate and nitrate and the mixture fused on platinum-foil, the mass on cooling was of a brilliant-green colour. This showed that manganese was present, and in sufficient quantity to mask the yellow coloration due to chromium. On mixing a little of the powder with sodium carbonate and exposing it to the reducing blowpipe-flame on charcoal, a yellow coating deposited on the charcoal. This coating turned white on cooling, thus pointing to the presence of zinc.

These results were important, because they indicated the method to be employed in carrying out the wet-process of analysis. It is usual to precipitate iron, chromium, or aluminium in the form of hydroxide, and from the filtrate to remove zinc, manganese, nickel, or cobalt in the form of sulphide. The separation in this way is only approximate. Even when a large excess of ammonium chloride is used, some manganese is sure to be carried down with iron, chromium, or aluminium, and a similar difficulty applies to zinc. In the presence of metals liable to interfere with this method of separation, it is better to precipitate the hydroxides and sulphides together, and then to follow the method of separation based on the use of barium carbonate. This reagent completely precipitates hydrates of the metals forming sesquioxides;—viz., iron, aluminium, and chromium—without precipitating the protoxides—viz., zinc, manganese, nickel, and cobalt. With due care the separation is quantitatively accurate, and for this reason barium carbonate is a valuable reagent in the analysis of such a mixture of salts as formed the subject of the last analysis. For full details of the procedure we must refer correspondents to text-books on qualitative analysis.

#### PRIZES.

The First Prize for the best analysis has been awarded to R. R. BENNETT, 1 Cannon Street, Dover.

The Second Prize has been awarded to JOHN W. MOORE, 10 Proctor's Row, Wigton, Cumberland.

#### MARKS AWARDED FOR ANALYSES.

R. R. Bennett (1st prize) .	100	Demosthenes	...	77
J. W. Moore (2nd prize) ...	99	J. A. Goode...	...	75
H. W. H. ...	98	Lyra	...	74
Acetylene ...	97	R. P. ....	...	73
W. H. Hurn ...	95	W. S. ...	...	72
C. J. Packham ...	95	Opalys	...	71
A. E. Beeston ...	95	Pedrieth	...	70
Galen ...	94	T. H. H. Francis	...	63
Tinnivelly ...	94	Vanillin	...	65
R. A. W. ...	93	B. P. S.	...	63
Diastase ...	93	Kiesel-guhr...	...	55
A. J. B. ...	92	A. Crossley	...	53
Triem ...	92	Ctenophora...	...	52
Huxham ...	91	E. W. P.	...	50
Tagus ...	90	Spes ...	...	40
D. J. ...	85	Borough Houses	...	30
Africanus ...	85	S. V. R.	...	20
T. T. ...	85	Citras	...	20
Algol... ..	83	Acetophenone	...	0
Methodical ...	80	Achlam	...	0

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*Prizes.*—The students to whom prizes are awarded are requested to write at once to the Publisher, naming the book they select, and stating how they wish it forwarded.

Any scientific book that is published at a price not greatly exceeding half a guinea may be taken as a first prize.

Any scientific book which is sold for about five shillings may be taken as a second prize.

*A special prize, consisting of Mendeléeff's "Chemistry" (2 vols.) and a certificate of honour, will be awarded to the student who obtains most marks in the six months ending April, 1898. Second and third prizes may also be given.*

*Note.*—All communications should include the names and addresses of the writers.

**AFRICANUS.**—It was important to draw a distinction between chromium as a base and as a constituent of an acid radicle.

**T. T.**—The colour you obtained on fusing the powder with sodium carbonate and potassium nitrate could not possibly be accounted for by the presence of chromium alone. The greenness of the mass, notwithstanding the presence of so much chromium, showed that you were dealing with more than a trace of manganese.

**ALGOL.**—The greater part of the zinc was precipitated with chromium as hydroxide. Even when every possible precaution is taken you can only obtain an approximate separation by the method you employed.

**METHODICAL.**—You do not seem to have noticed the peculiar brown colour of the powder. The constituent you detected would not account for this colour. You did not carry out any examination of the powder in the dry way—a most important part of a qualitative analysis. Valuable information is usually obtained by observing the effects of heat upon the substance under examination; its behaviour in an ignition-tube, on charcoal, with borax or sodium carbonate, and various other simple blowpipe-tests.

**DEMOSTHENES.**—Manganese should have been detected in the examination of the powder in the dry way by fusing it with sodium carbonate and potassium nitrate. There was not the slightest indication of a burnt-sugar odour when the powder was heated.

**J. A. GOODE.**—The powder was perfectly free from organic matter. Manganous sulphate is decomposed at a high temperature, leaving a nearly black mass of manganese oxides. Potassium chromate becomes nearly black at a red heat.

**LYRA.**—You failed to account for the green mass you obtained on fusing the mixture with potassium hydrate and chlorate. The colour could not have been due to accident.

**R. P.**—The precipitate obtained with ferric chloride required further examination. Ammonium molybdate is by far the best reagent to employ for the detection of phosphoric acid, especially in the case of substances insoluble in water.

**W. S.**—A nitric-acid solution of the powder gave a barely perceptible precipitate with silver nitrate. You must have added chlorine in some form to the solution, which gave such decided evidence of its presence.

**OPALYS.**—The red precipitate you obtained with silver nitrate was silver chromate. If arsenic had been present you would not have obtained a white precipitate on treating the original solution with an excess of sulphuretted hydrogen.



**T. H. H. FRANCIS.**—See remarks to "J. A. Goode." The precipitate obtained with calcium chloride was the sulphate, not the citrate, of that metal; a very common mistake.

**VANILLIN.**—The yellow colour of the original solution, and its change to green, with the separation of sulphur, under the action of sulphuretted hydrogen, showed that chromium was present as chromic acid. This was easily confirmed by the various reactions of chromic acid.

**B. P. S.**—See remarks to "Vanillin."

**KIESEL-GUHR.**—You failed to account for the colour of the powder and its partial insolubility in water. A chromate alone could not produce the green mass you obtained.

**A. CROSSLEY.**—You will see from the figures above that there was a good deal of potassium present. You may not have allowed sufficient time for the tartrate to crystallise out. Platonic chloride affords a much more sensitive test.

**CTENOPHORA.**—You omitted to give a list of the constituents detected. The colour of the powder and of its solution were very marked characteristics, and should have been accounted for.

**E. W. P.**—You speak of "neutralising with a slight excess of calcium chloride"—an impossible operation. The precipitate you obtained was calcium sulphate, not tartrate. The silver mirror we cannot venture to account for.

**SPES.**—You omitted to sign your paper; see note above.

**BOROUGH HOUSES.**—See remark to "Spes." The powder was brown, and gave a deep-yellow solution. The substances you detected would produce a colourless mixture.

**S. V. R.**—Your results were vitiated throughout by the use of reagents in insufficient quantity. The yellow chromate should have been reduced to a green salt of chromium by an excess of sulphuretted hydrogen. If you had used enough ammonia and ammonium sulphide there would have been no precipitate with ammonium carbonate.

**CITRAS.**—The blackening of the powder by heat was not the result of carbonisation. See remarks to J. A. Goode.

#### THE HALF-YEAR'S TOURNAMENT.

The names of the first ten competitors in our analytical tournament to date now stand as follows:—

C. J. Packham ... ..	484	Africanus ... ..	387
Acetylene ... ..	452	Galen ... ..	383
A. E. Beeston ... ..	442	Sepie ... ..	378
Dover ... ..	426	O. V. Blackburn ... ..	369
Lyra... ..	424	T. H. H. F. ... ..	359



Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

#### Drug-contracts.

The St. Giles's District Board of Works, on March 16, considered the following tenders for disinfectants for the ensuing twelve months:—Messrs. Adcock, Easton & Co., Essett's Sanitary Fluid Company, the Sanitas Company, Dewsett Brothers & Co., George Mayo & Co., and the Teuson Disinfecting Company. The tender of Messrs. Adcock, Easton & Co. was accepted.

The Strand Guardians last week considered the following tenders for the supply of drugs to the several establishments of the Union during the ensuing twelve months:—Messrs. Corbyn, Stacey & Co., 28½ per cent. below the Board's schedule price; Messrs. Hodgkinson, Prestons & King, 17½ per cent. ditto; Messrs. Burgoyne, Burbidges & Co., 15 per cent. ditto. The tender of Messrs. Corbyn, Stacey & Co. was accepted.

The Marylebone Board of Guardians have accepted the tender of T. Hodgkinson, Prestons & King to supply the Infirmary and the North and South Dispensaries with drugs, as per detailed tender for the sums of 338*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* They also accepted the tender of Burgoyne, Burbidges & Co. to supply the same institutions with druggists' sundries, as per detailed tender, for the sum of 147*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.*

The Sheffield Guardians had before them on March 16 tenders for the supply of drugs for the ensuing six months. That of Messrs. Boots (Limited) was reported to be the lowest, and it was proposed and seconded that their offer should be accepted. But other Guardians demurred, on the ground that Boots were outsiders, whereas the other chemists offering to supply the Board were local tradesmen. The mover of the resolution asked whether it was not a fact that Boots were ratepayers in the city, but, by a large majority, the Board passed Boots over, and gave the contract to Mr. Ellinor, whose quotation was 13 per cent. off for drugs and 20 per cent. off sundries. The only members to vote against this were Mr. Forsdike and Mr. T. Clarke; Mr. Newsbome was neutral.

Mr. Longman, chemist, Littlehampton, has secured the contract for the supply of Howards' quinine at 2*s.* 4*d.* per oz., and cod-liver oil at 5*s.* 6*d.* per gal., to the Workhouse for the ensuing quarter. Messrs. G. T. Cox & Sons (Limited), Eastcheap, London, supply carbolic soap at 1*s.* 6*d.* per cwt., arrowroot at 3½*d.* per lb., and night-lights at 4*s.* per dozen boxes.

Mr. W. T. Burkinshaw, druggist, Belper, has secured the contract for drugs to Belper Workhouse for the ensuing quarter.

The Dartford Board of Guardians have accepted the tender of Messrs. Baiss Brothers, London, for the supply of drugs.

Mr. W. Martin, High Street, Southampton, has obtained the contract for the ensuing six months for the supply of drugs and chemicals to the Southampton Guardians.

The Holborn Board of Works have accepted the tenders of the Sanitas Co. (Limited) and of Messrs. Adcock, Easton & Co. for the supply of disinfectants for the ensuing twelve months.

The following chemists have secured contracts for the supply of drugs and chemicals for the ensuing year:—

Mr. E. J. Kitson, 1 Broad Street, Worcester, to Worcester City Workhouse.

Mr. Silk, to St. John's Workhouse, Worcester.

Mr. C. Jones, to Loughborough Board of Guardians.

Mr. T. W. Garland (for the supply of linseed-meal), to Cannock Workhouse.

Mr. R. T. Clarke, to Gravesend Workhouse.

Mr. J. H. Suttle, Castle Street, Ludlow, to Ludlow Board of Guardians.

At the meeting of Reigate (Surrey) Board of Guardians on March 16 a letter was read from Mr. W. H. Fowler, pharmaceutical chemist, Redhill, making inquiries respecting the supply of drugs to the workhouse. The clerk (Mr. F. C. Morrison) informed the Board that at present the drugs were supplied by Mr. Barlow, of Reigate, and he was informed by the master that they were perfectly satisfactory. The drug-account was only about 3*l.* a quarter, and he thought it was hardly worth while advertising for tenders. It was decided that Mr. Fowler should be informed that the Board was satisfied with the present arrangements.

The Bermondsey Vestry have accepted the tender of Messrs. Adcock, Easton & Co. for the disinfectants for twelve months as follows:—Carbolic acid, 98 per-cent. acid, 11*d.*; crude carbolic acid, 30-per-cent. acid, 5*d.*; prepared carbolic acid, 20-per-cent. acid, 5*d.*; permanganate of potash, 8*d.* The Sanitas Company's tender was accepted for the supply of sanitas at 4*l.* 16*s.* per gross. This was the lowest of several tenders received.

#### A Negligent Burglar.

Messrs. Day's drug-stores at Leytonstone were visited by a burglar on Saturday night or early on Sunday morning, March 12 and 13. He got in at the back door, and got out with 5*l.* and some glycerine-jujubes. He had a wash and brush-up, but neglected to take away a box containing 34*l.* which was lying in one of the drawers he opened. He is invited to return for it, but the manager would be glad if he came next time during business hours.

#### An Old Chemist's Suicide.

On March 15 an inquest was held into the circumstances attending the death of Mr. David Wilkes (87), who was found

dead in bed. The deceased was formerly a pharmaceutical chemist in Bredon, but retired from business about five years ago. On Saturday night he retired to bed about 10.30, and upon his daughter, with whom he lived, going to him in the morning with his breakfast, she found him lying in bed quite dead. Dr. Liston, of Tewkesbury, stated that he found the knees drawn up and the hands clenched, and saw that the deceased had died from some poison. He was shown a bottle with a glass stopper and a glass turned upside down on a table beside the bed, which had contained prussic acid. He and Dr. Turner made a *post-mortem* examination of the body, and found all the organs healthy with the exception of the kidneys, which were diseased. In his opinion death was due to paralysis of the heart, caused by the taking of a large dose of prussic acid. The jury returned a verdict to that effect.

#### A Coroner Takes Prussic Acid.

At Pershore, on March 19, Mr. F. Moore (deputy-coroner) conducted an inquiry concerning the death of Joseph Martin, solicitor and coroner for the district. Deceased had recently been depressed and in ill-health. Mr. Arthur W. Smith, chemist, Pershore, stated that on March 15 Mr. Martin called upon him, and said he was going to hold an inquest on a retired chemist, who had poisoned himself with prussic acid at Bredon. They had a conversation as to the properties of prussic acid, and deceased asked witness to let him have a bottle of each kind of prussic acid for the purpose of explaining the matter to the jury. Having implicit confidence in Mr. Martin, witness supplied him. The medical evidence was to the effect that death was due to prussic acid, which was present in the intestines in considerable quantity. Verdict accordingly.

#### A Chemist's Excuse.

The Filey Magistrates had before them on March 18 a woman charged with attempting to commit suicide by taking Battle's vermin-killer, which she obtained from the shop of Mr. Alfred Stathers, chemist and druggist, Filey. Mr. Stathers told the Magistrates that he did not register the sale of Battle's vermin-killer because he did not know the amount of strychnine it contained. The Chairman told him it was an offence to sell the poison without registering it. Mr. Stathers said his difficulty was that in the register he had to keep an accurate record of the quantity of poison which a thing contained, and he could not do so in the case of Battle's vermin-killer as he did not know. The Chairman advised him to register it as Battle's vermin-killer.

#### Fires.

A slight fire occurred at the works of Messrs. Allen & Hanburys (Limited), 2 Letchford Buildings, Three Colt Lane, Bethnal Green, E., on March 21, which, however, was confined to one small drying-room and the flooring immediately over it. It was extinguished by the firm's own hose, and has not in the least interfered with the conduct of the business. Rather alarming accounts appeared in the daily papers, which seem to have arisen from four fire-engines being seen tearing down the street; but when the firemen got there they found that the amateurs had done the work and returned to their regular occupations with only a few hours' delay.

Three large warehouses at 59, 57, and 57A Farringdon Road, E.C., caught fire on March 22, and, as an epidemic of fires was prevalent that day, considerable damage was done before proper fire-brigade assistance could be procured. Amongst the sufferers were the firms of Mr. J. Sellers, manufacturing chemist, Mr. W. E. Millar, wholesale perfumers, and Messrs. Rayner & Co., lime-juice merchants, all of 57A Farringdon Road. The building and contents were severely damaged and the roof destroyed.

On March 19 a fire occurred at the soap-works of Messrs. Joseph Crosfield & Sons, Limited, Blundell Street and Kitchen Street, Liverpool. The premises in question are of an extensive character, but after about an hour's hard work the brigade succeeded in extinguishing the flames, thus averting what at the beginning appeared to be an outbreak fraught with serious destruction of property. The amount of damage done was considerable, but is stated to be fully covered by insurance.

#### Serious Charge against a Chemist.

Edward Charles Ludwig Kressel (32), chemist, of Brighton Road, Stoke Newington, was charged on a warrant at North London Police Court, on Wednesday, with feloniously forging and uttering, knowing the same to be forged, a receipt for 84*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*, purporting to be given by Messrs. Bennett, Son & Shears (Limited), with intent to defraud. The evidence for the prosecution showed that the prisoner and a Mr. Warsany, a lithographic artist, became interested in a patent for some alimentary article, and both put money into it. But the affairs became involved, a receiver was appointed, and law proceedings followed, Kressel suing Warsany for both slander and libel, and getting a farthing damages on each. In August, 1896, Mr. Warsany drew 233*l.* out of the Birkbeck Bank, and handed the notes to Kressel, some of which money was to be used in paying for machinery supplied by Messrs. Bennett, Son & Shears, of Kingsland. It was admitted that Kressel had paid to Messrs. Bennett, Son & Shears one sum of 149*l.* on August 22, 1896, but the allegation was that he had in the previous June bought a book on machinery from the firm for 3*s.* 6*d.*, and that he had changed the receipt for that into one for 84*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* The prisoner, who said he had communicated with his solicitor, who had not arrived, said his defence was that Warsany owed him 65*l.*, instead of his being indebted to the firm. He elicited from Mr. Bennett's cashier that there was no sum of 84*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* on their books; and also got from Mr. Warsany that he (the latter) held jewellery as security for some money. The prisoner also said he carried on the business at his own expense for a month or two prior to the appointment of the receiver. In fact, there was more than 200*l.* owing to him from the firm; so there was no necessity for his doing this abominable trick. Mr. D'Eyncourt remanded the prisoner, and agreed to accept bail—two sureties in 80*l.*, or one in 150*l.*

#### Football.

The Pharmaceutical F.C. played Bloomsbury on Saturday last at Acton, and the result was a win for the Pharmaceuticals by 3 goals to 1. Pharmaceutical team:—Prescott, goal; Jones and Metcalfe, backs; Payne, Nelson, and Evans, half-backs; Skelton, Day, Owen (centre), Warren and Wild, forwards.

The Pharmaceutical Football Club finishes the present season on Saturday next with the usual Old Boys' Match. The game will be played at Wormholt Farm (kick off at 3.45), and will be followed by a smoking-concert at the Bush Hotel, Goldhawk Road.

#### Fatality to the Vinolia Engineer.

On March 20 the mutilated body of a gentleman was found on the line near Haggerston Road Bridge and removed to Shoreditch mortuary, where it was subsequently identified as the remains of Albert William Robertson, aged 46, chief engineer of the Vinolia soap-works, Kentish Town. The deceased gentleman left his office on Saturday evening to return home, and all trace of him was lost until the discovery of the body.

#### Nonchalant Burglars.

The premises of Messrs. Solport Brothers, 66 Shaftesbury Street, New North Road, were broken into, and bath and flesh gloves to the value of between 40*l.* and 50*l.* were stolen. A warehouseman in the employ of a customer of Messrs. Solport Brothers happened to be passing on the night in question, and seeing a light concluded that the firm were working late. Having a few orders for the firm to deliver, he knocked at the door, and handed them to the man who opened. The burglar took charge of them readily, thanked the man, and wished him good-night. After this interruption, however, the thieves evidently thought it prudent to retire, as they contented themselves with what they could rapidly place on a van, leaving a large quantity of other goods ready for removal.

#### Chemists as Public Men.

The following gentlemen have been nominated for guardians on the Boards of their respective towns:—

Mr. Thomas Horrocks, manufacturing chemist, Assheton Road, Prestwich.

Mr. W. G. Blackham, chemist and druggist, Holloway, N., for the Islington Poor-law Board of Guardians.



Mr. W. Ramsden, chemist and druggist, Fallowfield.  
 Mr. J. A. Stamp, manufacturing chemist, Prestwich.  
 Mr. Charles Estcourt, analytical chemist, Stretford.  
 Mr. George Rooke, chemical-merchant, Manchester.

The following have been elected to Boards of Guardians:—

Mr. S. J. Coley, chemist, Stroud.  
 Mr. R. H. Lowe, chemist, Wolverhampton.  
 Messrs. J. A. Butler and C. G. Hodgson, chemists,  
 Leicester.

Mr. A. Livesley, chemist, New Mills.

The following are nominated for Town or District Councils:—

Mr. C. H. Griffiths, chemist, Droylsden.  
 Mr. J. W. Watkinson, chemist and druggist, Kersley.  
 Mr. F. W. Bates, chemist, Chorlton Road, Stretford.  
 Mr. H. S. Cooper, chemist, Kingston Mill.  
 Mr. S. Steele, chemist, Southminster, Maldon.  
 Mr. James Crosby Robson, pharmaceutical chemist,  
 Middlesbrough-on-Tees.  
 Mr. Frederick Tidswell, chemist, Denholme.  
 Mr. F. T. Hunt, chemical-manufacturer, Castleford.  
 Mr. J. Harker, chemical-works manager, Knottingley.  
 Mr. F. R. Riley, chemical-manufacturer, Hapton.  
 Mr. J. Smith, chemist, Accrington.  
 Mr. J. A. Heaton, chemist, Burnley.  
 Mr. W. E. Smithies, chemist, Elland.  
 Mr. Edward Turner, chemist, Newcastle-under-Lyme.  
 Mr. E. H. Griffiths, chemist, Burslem.  
 Mr. T. H. Jenkins, chemist, Stone.

The following have been elected members of Parish Councils:—

Mr. H. B. Palmer, chemist, Wingham (Kent)  
 Mr. Alfred Smart, pharmaceutical chemist, Steyning.  
 Mr. J. T. Hayes, chemist, Great Warley.  
 Mr. R. B. Haggins, chemist, Wainfleet.  
 Mr. J. Anson chemist, Dukinfield.  
 Mr. F. S. Moore, 34 Paragon, Bath.  
 Mr. J. Woodhead, chemical-manufacturer, Upperbridge.  
 Mr. Lawrence Heap, chemical-manufacturer, Brandwood.  
 Mr. John Birkett, chemist, Morecambe.  
 Mr. F. Tunbridge, chemist, Reading.  
 Mr. Frederick Brown, chemist, Lincoln.  
 Mr. James Craft, chemist, Reading.  
 Mr. J. Straughton, chemist, Cockermonth.  
 Mr. W. J. Greensill, chemist, Stourport.  
 Mr. C. G. Croke, chemist, Bromsgrove.  
 Mr. A. M. Long, chemist, Bognor.  
 Mr. Jas. Avison, chemist, Dukinfield.  
 Mr. M. Wolverson, chemist, Hechnesford.  
 Mr. J. Hyde and Mr. T. Miller, chemists, Wednesford.  
 Mr. T. W. Picken, chemist, Newport.  
 Mr. W. E. Goff, pharmaceutical chemist, Dartford.

#### Brussels Exhibition.

The report of the British Commission of the Exhibition held in Brussels last year has now been published. It shows that the Treasury grant was 5500*l.*, and there was a guarantee fund of about 6000*l.*, in round figures 11000*l.* Of this, 5000*l.* was spent on space and 2500*l.* for working-expenses. The rest has been voted in various directions. The cost per commercial exhibitor was 14*l.*, as compared with 27*l.* in Paris, 1887, and 71*l.* in Chicago, 1893. The United Kingdom contributed 23 per cent. of the exhibitors, and carried away 45 per cent. of the awards, thus showing how good the British exhibits were. One exhibitor out of every 976 British took a Grand Prix, Belgium had one for 2628, and France had one for 4518. The juror of section 5 mentions that there were only three English exhibitors in that section—viz., Messrs. F. Darton & Co., Messrs. Elliott Brothers, and Messrs. Ross & Co. (Limited). The jury awarded Diplômes de Grand Prix to all of these, "but by the further action of the higher authorities of the Exhibition (which is not quite comprehensible) the award to the first named was subsequently reduced to a Diplôme de Honneur." It was due, we believe, to a clerical error. The jury speaks highly of the exhibits by Messrs. Darton and

Ross. Baron de Bush, who was president of the jurors on pharmaceutical arts, does not contribute to the report.

#### Chemists on Cycles.

The Bradford and District Chemists' Association have formed a cycling club in connection with their Society, and on March 15 they had their first spin. Ilkley was selected as the place to be visited, and the route taken was by Otley and Asquith. Their destination was reached after an enjoyable run, tea was partaken of, and all landed home again safely by 8 o'clock.

#### The ex-Antagonist Leader.

Our Manchester correspondent writes:—Mr. Walter Gibbons, pharmaceutical chemist, of Market Street, Manchester, has been nominated for election as a member of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. Should Mr. Gibbons be elected, he will, no doubt, be found a very useful addition to the Council, as he possesses considerable influence in political circles, and this would doubtless prove valuable in any future pharmaceutical legislation.

#### The Herbal Elixir Acquitted.

Mr. W. H. Phillips held an inquest on Wednesday, at Wolverhampton, respecting the death of a man named Banks, aged 48, of Wednesfield. Mrs. Banks stated that her husband had been ill for about five or six years, but on March 13 he became worse, and was taken to the Wolverhampton General Hospital, where he died on Tuesday. A medical man had attended deceased, and witness had also obtained a medicine known as "Herbal Elixir" from Messrs. Boots, chemists, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, after taking which her husband vomited. Mr. John Oldershaw, manager for Messrs. Boots, gave evidence as to the composition of the medicine in question, and said that it was perfectly harmless. It did not contain any laudanum or preparation of opium. Dr. Clodd, house-surgeon at the hospital, deposed that deceased had suffered from a disease of the kidneys, and had died from natural causes. A verdict in accordance with the medical evidence was returned.



*Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.*

#### Business Changes.

Mr. J. B. Sweeney, registered druggist, has opened a shop at 22 Church Street, Ballymena. He was formerly in the employ of Messrs. Gilmer & Co. of that town.

The Ulster Chemists (Limited), as appeared from a report published last week, purchased from the Bankruptcy Court the stock and fittings of Mr. Calvert's Medical Hall, Lurgan. The establishment will be opened for business about the first week in April, under the management of Mr. Alfred Mann, L.P.S.I.

#### Drug-contracts.

At a meeting of the Carlow Board of Guardians, held on March 10, Mr. D. J. McGrath's tender for the supply of medicines and surgical appliances was unanimously accepted. This is the fifteenth year for which Mr. McGrath has held this contract, and Dr. Rawson spoke in high terms of the quality of the medicines which have been supplied in past years.

The Local Government Board has written to the Poor-law Guardians at Castlerea pointing out that not only is the quarterly requisition for drugs and medicines sent in by the dispensary out of proportion to the amount actually required, but the prices of the contractor are much above those quoted by Dublin chemists. A discussion ensued, and as a result the medical officers are not in future to apply for more than

a three-months' supply at one time. Fault was found with the dispensary committee for only meeting half-yearly.

#### Personal.

Mr. G. T. Nagle has been transferred to the charge of Leonard Medical Hall, Bolton Street. Dr. Jos. F. Whelan is appointed to Leonard's Pharmacy, Britain Street, Dublin.

Probate of the will of the late Dr. Hamilton, managing director of Messrs. Hamilton, Long & Co.'s State Pharmacy, Dublin, has been granted to Messrs. William and Arthur B. Watson, executors. The personality of the deceased is stated to be over 20,000l.

#### Working up the Membership.

The actions brought by the Mineral-waters Manufacturers' Association against sundry persons who had been using other makers' bottles were settled last week, on the suggestion of the Recorder, by all the defendants agreeing to become members of the Association and to obey its rules.

#### Trying to Stop the Clock.

A memorial from the Dublin Mineral-water Operative Society has been received by the local vintners' association protesting against the use of patent glass stoppers in mineral-water bottles, and asking that these should be discouraged for the benefit of home industry. Sympathy and regret were expressed by the recipients.

#### A Pharmaceutical Plum.

A pharmaceutical chemist at 100l. a year for three hours' work daily is to be appointed by the North Dublin Guardians for the Clarence Street Dispensary. The post is being hotly contested.

## French News.

(From our Paris Correspondent.)

**THE GOOD SHIP "LA VOISIERE."**—The French Admiralty has christened a newly-launched ironclad vessel the *La Voisier*.

**KOLA IS A FOOD.**—The Correctional Tribunal of Paris has delivered a judgment that henceforth kola is to be designated as a food, and that the therapeutic usage of the substance does not constitute it a medicine. They have refused in consequence to find that its sale by a provision-dealer is illegal.

**DEATH OF M. L. ROURE.**—The death is announced at Grasse of M. Louis Roure, head of the firm of Roure, Bertrand Fils, manufacturers of perfumery, &c. M. Roure has greatly assisted in the development of the French perfumery trade in recent years. He introduced an improved process for extracting perfume from flowers, as well as in preparing essences. He was a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour.

**THE MANUFACTURE OF CAFFEINE.**—The Paris Syndical Chamber of Chemical Products has approached the French Minister of Commerce with a view to obtaining the right for chemical-manufacturers to import tea and tea-dust into this country free of duty for the purpose of manufacturing caffeine; or, rather, the object is that an arrangement should be made by which the duty should be charged on the caffeine made from the tea, in order to enable French makers to compete with foreign manufacturers. M. Adrian, the President of the Chamber, had hoped that tea-refuse (*déchets de thé*) might be used. The quotations obtained from Calcutta for "*déchets*" is 35f. per 100 kilos., and for tea-dust 44f. to 69f. per 100 kilos., say about 2½d. per lb., delivered at Marseilles.

**CENTRAL PHARMACY OF THE HOSPITALS.**—A competitive examination will be held in Paris on April 20 for the post of assistant chief pharmacist of the Central Pharmacy of the Paris Hospitals. It is worth noting that, while this position is filled by competition, the more important position of chief pharmacist is given by simple nomination. The conditions for the examining committee are strict. In the first place, it consists of five members—viz., the director of the Central Pharmacy of Hospitals, a professor of the Paris School of Pharmacy, two hospital pharmacists, and a Paris pharmacist in business, who must be a member of the Society of Pharmacy and, if possible, a member of the Academy of Medicine. There must be no relationship

between any candidate and a member of the committee, or between any two members of the latter. The tests consist of a written composition on physics and chemistry applied to pharmacy, for which four hours are allowed; an oral examination on pharmaceutical subjects, ten minutes being accorded for reflection and a similar time for replying. The candidates' diplomas and previous work are also considered, and the examination terminates by what is known as "definitive proofs," consisting of eight hours' practical work in analysis, &c.

**MILITARY PHARMACISTS.**—The recent decision taken by the French Minister of War with a view to reducing the number of pharmacists in the French army has aroused some protest. M. Leroy has collected information concerning the pharmaceutical service in other European armies. He obtained a sympathetic hearing and good deal of applause on giving the result of his inquiries at the monthly meeting of the Paris Society of Pharmacy a few days ago. In everything connected with the army here comparison is held with what is made—or rather done—in Germany. In the Fatherland there are 217 military pharmacists against 185 in France, and the proposal to reduce this latter number to 115 is viewed with anything but favour by the army pharmacists themselves. As a retired military pharmacist M. Leroy considers it a grave imprudence to reduce the number in the army. The information he has obtained about pharmacy in our own army is as follows:—"In England the exercise of civil pharmacy is free, and military pharmacists do not exist. There is no central pharmacy, and no dépôt of medicaments. The military pharmacies are managed by the army doctors. The drugs, &c., are obtained in a very expensive way, prepared and divided in advance, from two large wholesale houses. The doctors are assisted by compounders who have no professional instruction worth speaking of. On the other hand, the pharmaceutical service in the Navy Hospitals is in the hands of fourteen navy pharmacists." M. Leroy seems to think that what is done in the English army in this respect does not count. He says the army in England is an expensive business in any case, and so is not surprised that its pharmacy service is not worked on an organised or economical basis.

**PHARMACEUTICAL TRADE-MARKS.**—Another case involving trade-mark rights in pharmaceutical preparations has been tried in Paris. The plaintiffs were a firm of chemists, who registered as a trade-mark, with the consent of the inventors, the name "*Chloralose*"—a preparation consisting of a combination of chloral and glucose, the therapeutic properties of which were discovered in 1892 by Drs. Harriot and Riehet. The defendant is a pharmacist, who has since advertised and offered for sale an identical preparation under the name of chloralose, or glueo-chloral, which the plaintiffs considered infringed their trade-mark. In reviewing the evidence of the case, the Judge said: "A remedy is not patentable, and the law in this respect cannot be defeated by means of a trade-mark. Of course, a trade-mark can be taken out for a preparation under a fancy name in order to distinguish it from similar products made by competitors. But it cannot be admitted that anyone who happens to be aware that a new medicament is about to be made known to the scientific world can register such name, and by this means reserve to himself the exclusive right to sell the remedy. The denomination given by an inventor to a new preparation endowed with therapeutic properties is, as it were, incorporated with the preparation, and becomes a necessary designation. Consequently an ownership of the name would be tantamount to a property of the thing itself. Thus, if the plaintiffs could, by registering the trade-mark, reserve to themselves the exclusive right to the word '*Chloralose*,' it would practically give them a monopoly of the medicament, which is against the law. As a matter of fact, their circulars and printed matter brought forward as evidence show that such was the object they hoped to attain by means of their trade-mark." Judgment was given for the defendant, with costs in his favour. This finding is in many points contrary to that in the recent action brought against M. Petit. The final judgment on the subject will not be known until the opinion of the higher Courts has been obtained. I understand that antipyrin and other products are the subjects of similar litigation.



## Australasian News.

From "The Chemist and Druggist of Australasia" February 1, 1898, copies of which, price 6d., may be obtained on application to the Publisher.]

THE ABORIGINES OF QUEENSLAND seem to like opium, and as it is not good for them the Government interferes. The Pharmaceutical Society of the colony had a letter about it from the Home Secretary's Department, and the conviction of a chemist for selling opium to aborigines was also discussed. The news section of the *C.D.A.* also contains a report of a seizure of several hundred pounds of opium from Chinamen in Brisbane, whom the police raided. This is all done under the Sale of Poisons Act.

MR. MCCREARY SHEA HILL, an Irish pharmacist, who has settled down in Rockdale, N.S.W., seems determined to make the Board of Pharmacy accept his Irish certificate for registration. This is pure patriotism on his part, as he seems to be eligible for registration as being in business in the colony; and in reply to a further demand for registration on the L.P.S.I., he has been told by the Board that unless he decides to register on his business qualification he will not be permitted to keep an open pharmacy.

CHEMISTS IN VICTORIA.—Mr. Joseph Bosisto is No. 1 on the register, and besides him 367 are on the register who are there because they were in business before October 1, 1876. The register also includes 293 who have qualified by the Victoria examination, and 130 who have immigrated from home bringing English and Irish certificates with them. Altogether there are 829 names on the register, and of these 119 live outside Victoria—viz., 52 being found in New South Wales, 23 in Tasmania, 13 in Queensland, 12 in Western Australia, 6 in England, 4 in New Zealand, 2 in South Australia, 2 in Fiji, 2 in the United States, 1 in South Africa, 1 in India, and 1 in France.

AMONGST THE PAPERS read at the meeting of the Australasian Association and reported in the *C.D.A.* are the following:—"The Molecular Mechanism of an Electrolyte," by W. M. Hamlet, F.I.C., F.C.S.; "The Colouring-matter of Wines," by M. Blunno, N.S.W. Department of Agriculture (brief abstract); "Metallurgical Methods in Use at Broken Hill, N.S.W.," by Mr. G. H. Blakemore; "The Russell Process in Australia," by Edgar Hall; "On the Occurrence of Phosphatic Deposits in the Jenolan Caves, N.S.W.," by John C. H. Mingaye, F.C.S., Analyst to the Department of Mines; "On Modern Methods of Teaching Chemistry," by W. J. Clunies Ross, B.Sc.; "On 'Red-rain' Dust," by Thos. Steel, F.L.S., F.C.S.; "Estimation of Wheatmeal in Oatmeal" and "The Water of the Water Vine," by W. H. Doherty, F.C.S.; "Note on the Constitution of Wheat-gluten," by F. B. Guthrie. The discussions which followed the papers are also reported, and portraits of most of the authors are given.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA PHARMACY.—The report of the Pharmaceutical Council for 1897 comes to us direct. It shows that during the year three candidates presented themselves for the Preliminary examination and three passed, while four out of five candidates passed the Final examination. The register now contains the names of eighty-eight chemists, being an increase of fourteen during the year. Amongst these we notice the names of ten persons who have passed the Minor or Major examinations in Great Britain, of whom the following were registered last year:—Mr. William Corson, Kalgoorlie (on the British register as of Callander, Perthshire); John Wm. Cawpe, pharmaceutical chemist, Kurawa (not now on the British register); Charles Francis, Black Flag (on the British register as of 5 Tremadoc Road, Clapham Road, S.W.); Henry Charles Glanville, Cue (not now on the British register); and Richard Jackson, Coolgardie (not now on the British register). Registration in the colony is effected on presentation of the examination-certificates.

CHEMISTRY OF XANTHORRHŒA RESINS.—Dr. W. Finselbach writes *à propos* of the note on this subject in our issue of December 11, 1897:—

Professors Tschirch and Hildebrandt have lately published on the same subject, and Dr. Karl Dieterich (Helfenberg) is working

now on the acaroid resins, after having scientifically investigated (*vide* "Helfenberg Annalen," 1896) "resins and gum resins used in therapeutics." On November 9 last he showed to the German Pharmaceutical Association samples of different acaroid resins pointing out the inconvenience produced because the correct species of *Xanthorrhœa* furnishing a certain resin is hardly ever mentioned. The same applies to our kinos and eucalyptus oil. Dieterich considers that it is mainly *X. quadrangularis* which produces the gum acaroides of commerce. Lately this resin has been used as varnish for metal instead of shellac. Potassium and sodium soaps of our *X.* resins are used instead of colophonium for sizing papers in the United States of America. There cannot be any doubt that Australian vegetable raw products would have found before now larger use in chemistry and industry if unfortunately the products of different species were not indiscriminately mixed together, and so brought on the market.

It will be remembered that the Imperial Institute had taken the matter up, hence our December note.

## Colonial and Foreign News.

LEPRA-SERUM.—A special concession by the Russian Minister of the Interior has been made for the importation of E. Merck's lepra-serum into the country free of duty.

FIRE.—The branch pharmacy of Messrs. Polc, Ledeker & Co., situated at the lower end of Anderson and Small Streets, Johannesburg, was on February 26 completely destroyed by fire.

PHARMACY IN KIAOU-CHOW.—The German is prompt. No sooner had the Ministry of Marine taken charge of the Chinese province Kiaou-Chow than an apotheker from Kattowitz asked for a pharmacy-concession, got it, and is now safely established there.

AN OIL COMBINE.—It is reported that the firm S. L. Herzfeldersohn, in Brünn, Austria, have combined with the Breslau Oelfabrik Aktien Gesellschaft, and Herr Hugo Herzfelder has been appointed general manager of the new company. Their principal manufactures are palm, rape, and linseed oils.

CHEAP MATCHES FOR CHILI.—With the view of promoting the manufacture of matches, the Chilean Congress have passed a Bill to admit duty-free, for a period of ten years, bichromate of potash, cotton wick, common phosphorus, red or amorphous phosphorus, and cardboard, adorned or not, for match-boxes.

BETTER THAN GOLD-DIGGING.—Dr. H. C. Bowers, a Louisville doctor who went to Klondike with a supply of medicines when the discoveries of gold were first announced, is selling quinine capsules at 3 dollars each, and in practising his profession receives sacks of gold-dust for fees. He writes that he does not care to locate a claim, finding the practice of his profession sufficiently lucrative.

POISONS IN INDIA.—The *Indian Lancet* thinks it is time the Government controlled the sale of poisons in India, and says a Poisons Act should be brought in for this purpose, and to provide for the registration of all druggists (those doing business after the European method), as well as the *Pasaris*, or native druggists of the bazaar. Orpiment is very common poison in India, and it is used for nefarious purposes to an alarming extent.

PHENACETIN IN U.S.A.—The Treasury department at Washington has informed a correspondent (who asked if Messrs. Schieffelin & Co., the holders of the phenacetin patent, only may import the product) that "there is no provision of law granting exclusive right to owners of patents of importing patented articles." It is curious, therefore, that the Customs have assisted the patentees in confiscating phenacetin other than Bayer's.

SPECIAL TRAIN FOR A BOTTLE OF MEDICINE.—A doctor at Appleton City, Mo., had broken his leg; lockjaw followed, and a certain kind of medicine was needed which could not be procured nearer than Parsons, 100 miles away. A special train, consisting of one car and a locomotive, was engaged, the bottle was procured, and the run home made at the rate of a mile a minute. This seems to us even quicker than the average errand-boy could do it.

**THE COCHINEAL INDUSTRY.**—Consul Maclean, in his report on the trade of the Canary Islands for 1896-97, says:—"A disposition to cultivate the cochineal-insect in larger numbers is shown, but the increased demand for the dye so obtained is but small."

**IN THE TRANSVAAL** a chemist's licence costs 10*l.* a year. Other shopkeepers have also to take out licences. At the Criminal Court, Johannesburg, on February 23, thirty-six persons were summoned for not paying up, amongst them two chemists—viz., John Haddon, who for keeping a chemist's shop at Fordsburg without a licence was fined 10*l.*, or fourteen days' imprisonment; and A. Swain, Jeppestown, who was fined 7*l.* 10*s.*, or ten days', for a similar offence.

**LOVE-PHILTRES.**—At the Durban Police Court on February 24, a young man named George Turner was charged with obtaining money by false pretences in selling natives a decoction which he told them was a love-philtre, and which, if sprinkled on a handkerchief and waved at girls, would attract them. Turner charged 1*l.* a bottle, but as the natives had no success they complained to the police. As the prisoner had been three months in gaol, he was not punished further.

**GELATINE PILL-COATER.**—The United States Circuit Court of Appeals has recently given its decision in the action brought by Mr. John B. Russell, the patentee of a gelatine pill-coating machine on the suction principle, against Messrs. F. Stearns & Co., Detroit, for infringement of patent. Mr. Russell got a verdict in his favour in the U.S. Circuit Court, but in the Court of Appeals Judge Taft has reversed it on the ground that the Russell patent was invalid. It is this patent which Messrs. Parke, Davis & Co. employ in their factory.

**SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT TABLOIDS.**—At a meeting of the Deutscher Apotheker Verein, held in Berlin on February 4, it was reported that the resolution passed at the last general meeting of the Verein in regard to the importation of Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co.'s manufactures (tabloids) had not been carried out, the reason apparently being that the general order does not prohibit the use of a basis with powerful active ingredients, and that is all that Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co. have done, except that the Verein would like them to say what their basis is.

**DRUGGISTS' PROFITS.**—There has been a discussion in Ceylon papers regarding druggists' profits, and Mr. W. Jordan, chemist, Lincolna, Talawakele, writing in regard to the matter, gives the following interesting statement:—"We have gone carefully into our sales for one year dating from August 1, 1896, to July 31, 1897; we have noted down cost of drugs, bottles, and other items connected with the dispensing of them, reasonable interest on the stocks we are compelled to keep, also the dispenser's salary; and we find our net profit on the department amounted to 3 per cent. per annum on the sales."

**DRUG-CULTURE IN CEYLON.**—The Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Peradeniya, Ceylon, states in his annual report for 1897 that the nurseries at Henaratgoda now contain about 2,000 young ipecacuanha plants, most of which are available for distribution to those wishing to experiment in the island. Camphor plants continue to grow well in the gardens, some of them being 9 feet high, while in the Galle district others planted in 1895 have attained a height of 12 feet. To promote the industry in Ceylon persons desiring to experiment in the distillation of camphor from twigs and leaves can be supplied with a small quantity of material for the purpose.

**BULGARIAN OTTO OF ROSE.**—A recent issue of the *Constantinople Trade Journal* devotes a long article to the Bulgarian otto question, which is apparently a reflection of the information which we published on February 12. It is pointed out that since the Mohammedan emigration from Kesanlik to Asiatic Turkey the yearly production of otto in that province has increased from 1,800 to 3,500 kilos., valued at 1,500,000*l.* to 3,000,000*l.*, and this fine trade is jeopardised by the continued falsification with geranium oil. Our contemporary urges upon the Bulgarian Government the extreme necessity of stamping out this source of adulteration before the industry reaches a declining stage.

## Trade Notes.

**MESSRS. CADBURY BROTHERS** are placing before chemists this week arguments in favour of an absolutely pure cocoa free from drugs and chemicals such as they claim theirs to be.

**THE salvage stock** from the fire which occurred on the premises of Messrs. Willows, Francis & Butler is to be sold by auction on Thursday next. Particulars are given in our Supplement.

**A BOLD CHALLENGE** in respect to the statements they make as to their lime-juice plantations and as to the quality of their lime-juice is published this week by Messrs. L. Rose & Co., of London, Leith, and Dominica, W.I.

**A CURIOUS circumstance** announced in Messrs. May, Roberts & Co.'s advertisement last week was that the winners of the three prizes, 5*l.* 5*s.*, 3*l.* 3*s.*, and 2*l.* 2*s.*, in their competition for the largest number of coupons of Dr. John Hooper's female-pills were all women.

**PROFITABLE PERFUMERY.**—No doubt many of our subscribers noted the smart advertisement in last week's issue by Messrs. Ayrton & Saunders, Liverpool, regarding perfumes. They argue that the chemist can make most profit by selling his own brands, even at a cutting price. They put up 2 oz. of a first-class article in a good bottle, labelled neatly, with the chemist's own name on the labels, to retail at 1*s.* 8*d.* (ostensibly a 2*s.* 6*d.* bottle), which shows a profit of 6*d.* per bottle. The perfumes are good, and the styles are elegant.

**DR. TIBBLES' VI-COCOA.**—There is not a chemist in the land who is not familiar with this popular article, but if there should we recommend him to write at once to the Company in Golden Lane, E.C., for a sample of it. Few dietetic articles of common consumption have come into such a full field and found such a high place as the vi-cocoa, which would have been impossible had there not been merit in it. Many have been the attempts to get kola established as a dietetic product for English people, and this combination with cocoa and aromatic tonics is the signal success.

**THE perennial difficulty** with clinical thermometers is getting the index down after the temperature has been tested. By a slight difference in the construction of the bore, which Messrs. S. Maw, Son & Thompson have patented, this difficulty has been to a great extent overcome. Testing their patent clinicals by the side of an ordinary one, we found that after a couple of jerks, both thermometers being held side by side, the patent one had fallen from 105 to 98, while the old one had only fallen from 105 to 102. The additional cost is not great; the new patents can easily be sold at 1*s.* extra.

**GLASS BEAKERS** with a coating of asbestos cloth on the bottom and about half an inch up the sides are the latest thing from the Thuringen glass-works. Mr. R. A. Grosse, of Hmenau, is the manufacturer. He also makes flasks with the same protection, as well as retorts and test-tubes. In this way the apparatus is not only more lasting, but it stands a higher temperature than unprotected glass.

We have used the beakers, and after the first trial left things to boil in them, which under other circumstances we should have been nervous about.

**GUY'S TONIC.**—On Monday, March 28, Guy's Tonic Company, 12 Buckingham Palace Road, S.W., introduce a new size of their speciality—viz., a 6-oz. bottle to retail at 1*s.* 1½*d.*, and the old 2*s.* 9*d.* size (8-oz.) will be increased proportionately. Any of the latter which retailers and wholesalers may have in stock will be exchanged. In announcing this change the company make an offer to the trade which will be found in our advertisement section. Briefly it amounts to this, that instead of the lowest terms being given on 200*l.* lots only, they will in future be given on gross lots costing 6*l.* 9*s.*; carriage will be paid by the company, and a piece of silver-plate worth a guinea will be given as a premium to all who sell 5 gross of the 1*s.* 1½*d.* size within six months. It will also be noted that the 1*s.* 1½*d.* size must not be sold below the fixed minimum price of 1*s.* net per bottle. In order to ensure this the company will cut off direct supplies in the event of anyone evading this condition.





## The Winter Session.

### CHEMISTS' ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

On March 17 Mr. E. W. HILL gave a practical demonstration of

#### WATER-ANALYSIS

before this Association. Mr. Hill gave directions for the collection of a sample of water, and said a clean stoppered Winchester quart should be used, the bottle being rinsed out with the sample before filling. The physical appearance of the water, its colour, and any smell when warmed should be noted. Suspended matter is separated in a depositing-jar and examined under the microscope. A sample of water was taken, and the total solids estimated by evaporating 100 c.c. of the clear sample to dryness in a tarred dish and weighing the residue. The weight in milligrammes multiplied by ten gives parts per million. The residue was strongly heated, any blackening being noted, and again weighed for total mineral matter. Total chlorine was then estimated by titrating 50 c.c. of the water with solution of silver nitrate, of which 1 c.c. corresponds to 1 mg. of Cl. A solution of chromate of potash free from chlorides being used as an indicator. A high chlorine figure (which was obtained in this case) implies contamination with animal matter, unless the source of supply is near the sea or salt-deposits.

Ammonia was estimated by Nessler's colorimetric method, the method being to distil 250 c.c. of the water in a retort with a little recently-ignited sodium carbonate until all ammonia has passed over. The distillate is then placed in a Nessler glass with some Nessler solution, and compared with the colour produced by a known quantity of ammonia contained in a standard solution of ammonium chloride.

Albuminoid ammonia was estimated by adding 25 c.c. of Wanklyn's alkaline-permanganate solution to the residual water in the retort and distilling till no more ammonia passed over. The distillate was then Nesslerised as before.

Hardness before and after boiling (total and permanent hardness) was then estimated by standard soap solution, one degree of hardness in Clark's scale being equal to 1 gr. of  $\text{CaCO}_3$  to the gallon.

The amount of oxygen absorbed in fifteen minutes and four hours from acid-permanganate solution at  $80^\circ \text{F}$ . gives an idea of the total oxidisable organic matter contained in the water. The permanganate unreacted is estimated by the addition of iodide of potassium and titration with hyposulphite of soda.

Nitrates are estimated by means of the zinc and copper couple. A piece of zinc-foil is placed in a 3-per-cent. solution of copper sulphate until a layer of copper is deposited. The foil is then washed and placed in a bottle with a quantity of the water for twenty-four hours. Nitrates are reduced to ammonia, which is then estimated in the usual way. The presence of nitrates is important as giving evidence of previous organic contamination.

Nitrites are detected by acidified solution of iodide of potassium and starch-paste. Their presence indicates recent contamination, but is occasionally due to the passage of the water through iron pipes effecting a reduction of the nitrates.

To detect presence of lead, copper, or iron evaporate some of the water to a small bulk; test for lead and copper with ammonium sulphhydrate, and for iron with potassium ferrocyanide. Having obtained these analytical data, it is necessary to have information concerning the source of the supply, the nature of the gathering-ground, and the depth and position of the well before giving an opinion as to the character of the water.

Mr. MORLEY TAYLOR said he thought the accurate use of colour-tests required experience and a practised hand.

Mr. FELL asked Mr. Hill if he had tried Tichborne's method of making soap solution with oleic acid and solution of sodium hydrate, and whether he had tried the ammoniacal-solution-of-phenol test recently published. He (Mr. Fell) had found it a failure.

Mr. HYMAN recommended the indigo-process for the estimation of nitrates. The standard solution was difficult to make, but the results were very satisfactory.

Mr. HILL briefly replied.

An assortment of apparatus for the examination of water had been lent by Messrs. Gallenkamp. One of Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co.'s water-analysis cases was also exhibited.

### GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE fortnightly meeting of this Association was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. W. L. Currie presiding.

#### THE OPPOSITION TO THE PHARMACY BILL.

THE PRESIDENT made a confidential communication to the members regarding the steps taken in Glasgow and London in connection with Mr. Cross's opposition to the Pharmacy Bill.

#### ON THE DISPENSING OF ANTIPYRINE WITH SPT. ÆTH. NIT.

Mr. T. DUNLOP read a note on the above, and said that in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, February 26 (page 357), there was reprinted from the *Pharmaceutical Review* a note on the above by Professor Caspari. His note is a critique of a communication on the same subject which appeared in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST in April last. The prescription preferred to contained antipyrin., spt. æth. nit., liq. amon. acet., aq. chlorof., &c. The Professor disproves the conclusion that aq. chlorof. prevents incompatibility, and points out that if the spt. æth. nit. be exactly neutralised with a bicarbonate the decomposition of the antipyrine is retarded "only for a time," whilst an alkaline solution does not develop the green colour "even after standing for several days." Guided by this observation, he inferred that the correspondent who brought the matter forward "in all probability used a solution of ammonium acetate which was decidedly alkaline in his final experiment," and, acting on this assumption, Professor Caspari did so with satisfactory results. But he did not—as his paper shows—try the effect of a neutral solution of ammonium acetate, and to that extent his conclusion is fallacious. To prove this the lecturer had made three experiments. Fifteen grains of antipyrine was dissolved in 3 dr. of water, and divided in three test-tubes. To (1) was added liq. amon. acet. ʒi., spt. æth. nit. mxl.; to (2) potassium acetate gr. v., water ʒi., spt. æth. nit. mxl.; to (3) sodium acetate gr. v., water ʒi., spt. æth. nit. mxl. The acetates were tested and proved neutral. After forty-eight hours there was a very faint development of the green colouration in No. 1 tube, but no change in the other two tubes after a week. Before the days of antipyrine he (the lecturer) had observed that acetates prevented the incompatible action of spt. æth. nit. with iodides and bromides, and expected they would act similarly in the case of antipyrine, in which he was not mistaken. But to secure this result the acetate must be fixed with either of the incompatible substances. To act on Professor Caspari's suggestion is therefore only necessary in the absence of an acetate.

In the discussion which followed the point was raised as to whether the compound of antipyrine and sweet spirit of nitre was injurious.

THE PRESIDENT said he had never found the colouration take place, as his sweet spirit of nitre was always in good condition.

Mr. D. WATSON said medical men should be told that the incompatibility of sweet nitre and antipyrine was easily got over.

THE PRESIDENT added that the theory as to its being injurious had been exploded for some time, the combination made a most valuable prescription.

#### A DISPENSING QUERY.

Mr. LAING submitted a query as to dispensing the following prescription:—

Quin. disulph.	...	...	...	5ss.
Ung. bismuthi oleat.	...	...	...	5ss.
Ung. hydrag. oleat.	...	...	...	5ss.

M. Ft. ung.

Oleates to be neutral.

He said that when dispensed with a white soft paraffin base the ointment turned a green colour in a short time, but when

dispensed with a yellow paraffin the green colour was not developed. The query was—What was the cause of the discolouration?

In the course of a discussion, Mr. LAING suggested that the colouration might have been caused by some chemical used in bleaching the soft paraffin.

#### UNG. BISMUTHI OLEATIS.

Mr. DAVID WATSON pointed to the absence of any official or unofficial formula for this. He usually dispensed prescriptions containing 20 per cent. of oleate of bismuth when no definite quantity was mentioned.

Mr. DUNLOP said he had always dispensed according to the prescription of Professor McCall Anderson, which contained 10 per cent.

The PRESIDENT stated that one medical man whom he knew ordered 5 per cent., and another 20 per cent. It was unfortunate there was no official recognition of these oleates. In Edinburgh the custom was to dispense with 20 per cent.

Mr. WATSON stated that he would continue his inquiries among medical men in order to get a consensus of opinion, and report to a future meeting.

#### PROPOSED MONTHLY MEETINGS.

The PRESIDENT gave notice that at the annual business meeting he would move that the meetings of the Association be held monthly instead of fortnightly in future. He hoped by this an improvement would be effected in the attendance. Several members thought they would get a better attendance if they reverted to Thursday-night meetings.

#### THE PRESIDENCY.

Mr. CURRIE intimated that he meant to retire from the office of President this year. He had held the office for the past six years.

#### PLYMOUTH, DEVONPORT, STONEHOUSE, AND DISTRICT CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION.

ON March 16 Mr. J. D. TURNEY, Ph.C., gave a very interesting lecture on "Foliage-leaves and their Structure," illustrated by lantern-slides prepared by himself, to a large and representative audience at the Association rooms. On the motion of the CHAIRMAN (Mr. Jas. Cocks), a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Turney for his lecture, and one to Mr. J. Maurice for presenting a lantern and accessories to the Association.

#### CHEMICAL SOCIETY.

AT the meeting of March 17, the attraction was the presence of Professor Brauner from Prague, the well-known worker on the rare earths. After the usual formal business, the PRESIDENT read another announcement by the Council, from which it appeared that Messrs. Harden and Hartog had given notice of their intention to move two resolutions at the annual meeting for the purpose of obtaining a *plébiscite* of the Society on the subject of the proposed supplemental charter. The answer of the Secretaries was also read, setting forth at some length that the resolutions were out of order, inasmuch as their effect would be precisely the same as passing a by-law to enable the Fellows to vote by post on this matter, which had already been rejected as repugnant to the charter. The Secretaries, however, suggested that any Fellow might move in the matter at his own expense, and that if he carried the Society and the Privy Council with him he would probably be recouped. After this the reading of the papers began. The first was a physico-chemical paper,

#### THE REDUCTION OF BROMIC ACID AND THE LAW OF MASS ACTION.

Messrs. WINIFRED JUDSON, B.Sc., and J. WALLACE WALKER, M.A., Ph.D., have investigated the velocity of the reduction of bromic acid by hydrobromic acid, and find that, in the presence of a large quantity of sulphuric acid, the reaction is bimolecular, whereas in the absence of sulphuric acid it is tetramolecular.

The second was on

#### THE ACTION OF FERRIC CHLORIDE ON THE ETHEREAL SALTS OF KETONE ACIDS.

Messrs. R. S. MORRELL, M.A., Ph.D., and J. M. CRAFTS, B.A., B.Sc., state that when anhydrous ferric chloride dissolved in absolute ether is added to an ethereal solution of ethylic ketophenylparaconate or the lactone of oxalacetic acid, a red oil separates.

Mr. T. C. PORTER followed with a

#### NOTE ON THE VOLATILITY OF SULPHUR.

During the analysis of some pumice rock from Teneriffe, the author was led to the conclusion that sulphur is volatile at 100° C. After a series of experiments he proved this, a very sensible deposit being observed in a few minutes. The volatilised drops remain fluid for days at ordinary temperatures.

Professor McLEOD, in the discussion which followed, said that some similar experiments had been carried out by Mr. Douglas Herman in 1863, though they had not been published. Herman found that sulphur could be volatilised in a vacuum when heated to the temperature of boiling water, and that the vapour condensed in drops on the cool parts of the tube, and remained liquid for many days. Octahedral crystals were formed at the expense of the drops in the neighbourhood of the crystals, the drops gradually evaporating whilst the crystals increased in size; prismatic crystals were very rarely seen. When phosphorus is heated *in vacuo* by the warmth of the hand, its vapour also is deposited in drops, although, as in the case of sulphur, the vapour had not been heated to the melting-point of the solid. Iodine at once forms crystals under similar conditions, no liquid being deposited.

Mr. PAGE remembered the exhibition of specimens, and Mr. GROVES and the PRESIDENT took part in the discussion, the latter pointing out that the vapour-tension of sulphur at 100° amounted to 0.6 m.m., a number which had prevented its use for the construction of vacuum-vessels. The next paper was by Messrs. T. B. WOOD, M.A., W. T. N. SPIVEY, M.A., and T. H. EASTERFIELD, M.A., Ph.D., on

#### CANNABINOL.

It gave an account of the authors' researches for some time past on this uninviting substance. They obtain similar compounds to those described by Professor Dunstan and Mr. Henry, but assign different formulæ. On boiling they obtain a hydrocarbon,  $C_{10}H_{16}$ ; and by oxidation with dilute acids, &c., they obtain a caproic acid.

No remarks were passed on the paper, and the meeting settled itself down to the first of Dr. BRAUNER's four papers—viz., "Contributions to the Chemistry of Thorium." He obtained, after numerous crystallisations, a double salt of thorium and ammonium oxalate, with a certain amount of free oxalate, but from this he obtained a "complex" salt, ammonium thoroxalate, from whose analysis the atomic weight could be calculated  $Th = 232.59$ , as a test of the purity of the salt. The next paper, "On the Atomic Weight of Thorium," told of the determination. The purity of the material was shown by the spark-spectrum. The average result was  $Th = 232.42$ , agreeing with that of Kruss and Nilson,  $Th = 232.45$ . In the third paper, "On the Compound Nature of Cerium," the author showed how modern methods enabled an unsuspected impurity to be detected. In cerite he finds proof of the presence of an element of atomic weight = 110 contaminating the cerium.

#### ON PRASEODYMIUM AND NEODYMIUM.

Von Welsbach in 1885 split up the element didymium into two elements: praseodym,  $Pr = 143.6$ , and neodym,  $Nd = 140.8$ . Since then no work on the subject has been published. The author described the salts of praseo- and neodymium. He finds that the atomic weights given by Welsbach must be reversed. He thinks that the eighth series of the periodic system will assume the following form:—

I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Cs.	Ba.	La.	Ce.	Pr.	Nd.
133	137.4	138.2	139.7	141	143.6

After a few congratulatory remarks by the PRESIDENT the meeting closed; and the members proceeded to examine



the specimens shown by Dr. Brauner and Mr. Porter, not to mention the "remains" which were displayed upstairs in the coffee-room.

#### ABERDEEN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE adjourned annual meeting of this Association was held on March 9 to discuss the committee's report on education, Mr. James Clark, Ph.C. (President), in the chair.

Mr. GILES, convener of the Education Committee, in moving the adoption of the report, explained fully all the steps taken by the committee, and the plan they proposed to adopt to enable them to equip the rooms and guarantee a minimum salary to a capable teacher. Mr. A. L. BRUCE seconded, and a discussion followed, which was freely taken part in by the members present; but so well had the committee done their work that almost every point brought forward had been anticipated, and ultimately the report was unanimously adopted. The following were appointed a committee to make all the necessary arrangements—viz., Messrs. Clark, Giles, Paterson, and J. Cruickshank.

The committee reported that the Secretary had sent a circular-letter to all the local secretaries of the Pharmaceutical Society north of, but not including, Dundee, asking them to answer the following queries:—

- 1st. What might be the number of unqualified assistants and apprentices in your district?
- 2nd. Have you any idea where they usually go for study?
- 3rd. Are there any classes in your district suited for pharmaceutical students?
- 4th. Do you think it likely that students in your district would prefer Aberdeen to other and more expensive centres if a good school was established?

Thirteen of the fifteen local secretaries replied to the effect that, if a properly-equipped school of pharmacy were established in Aberdeen under a capable teacher, the young men from their districts would prefer Aberdeen to the more expensive centres in the south. The number of apprentices and unqualified assistants in the various districts amounted to about 300, which, added to the number in Aberdeen, gave a total of over 400 available students. After these replies had been received and considered, a few pharmacy teachers in the south were written to asking the probable cost of fitting-up an efficient laboratory for accommodating twenty students. In reply, a very exhaustive report had been received from Mr. G. F. Merson, Newcastle-on-Tyne, who went fully into every detail, and after further consideration and discussion the committee came to the unanimous opinion that, provided the Association were fortunate in securing the services of a capable and energetic teacher, an arrangement might be come to whereby the rooms at present occupied by the Association could be remodelled and properly equipped at an outlay of an additional sum of 50*l*.

#### CAMBRIDGE PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

AT a meeting of the Cambridge Pharmaceutical Association, on March 12, it was announced that, owing to illness, Professor J. Reynolds Green, F.R.S., Sc.D., was unable to deliver his lecture on "Some of the Mechanisms of Plants." Mr. Alderman Deck, F.C.S., presided over a large attendance, among those present being Messrs. C. S. Addison, G. McAvoy, A. Sidney Campkin, J.P., Bernhard S. Campkin, and H. F. Cook. Mr. E. SAVILLE PECK, B.A., kindly gave an account of a trip to the Norwegian fiords, illustrated by lantern-slides from photos taken on the journey. At the conclusion the CHAIRMAN proposed a vote of thanks, which was seconded by Mr. A. SIDNEY CAMPKIN, and which Mr. PECK briefly acknowledged.

#### MEAT EXTRACTS.

AT a meeting of the Society of Arts on March 23, Mr. C. R. Valentine read a paper on "The Preparation of Meat-extracts." Mr. Michael Carteighe was in the chair. Mr. VALENTINE, in opening the subject, said his object was to point out how Australia might still further develop the important trade in dietetic preparations which it was at present developing. The uses of extract of meat as a substitute for alcoholic beverages and for

use in transport services were alluded to, and a brief historical sketch of Liebig's researches given. The general principles laid down by Baron von Liebig were adhered to to-day, although the lecturer thought the full significance of Liebig's teachings was not yet fully appreciated. The preparation of extract was next dealt with. Great care is taken that before commencing the manufacture of the extract all animal heat is eliminated, the carcasses being submitted to a cooling process. The meat is then cut up by machinery, and put into steam-jacketed pans with its own weight of water, and stewed at 175° F. for twenty minutes. The "soup" is drawn off, the residue pressed, and the mixed liquids evaporated in vacuum-pans to a pasty consistence. A bullock weighing 400 lbs. yields 10 lbs. of extract. The by-products of the factories are systematically dealt with, as this part of the business is one yielding considerable profit. The sweetbreads were used for making pancreatin. Allusion was made to Armour's immense works at Chicago, where the utilisation of by-products was, the lecturer said, carried on to perfection. A tribute was paid to Brand & Co., of Mayfair, who were the pioneers of the meat-extract trade in England. The relative stock-statistics of Australia and America were dealt with, the lecturer giving it as his opinion that the American trade would eventually be entirely in frozen meat, whilst Australia would mainly supply extract. There was also, the lecturer continued, a decided preference for Australian extract, which he contended possessed a fuller and finer flavour than American.

In the discussion which followed, Mr. DONALDSON, of Armour & Co., spoke of the difficulties they had in competing against impure extracts, and hoped the Adulteration Bill would deal with the subject.

Mr. M. CARTEIGHE, in proposing a vote of thanks, said he thought that extract made from beef was preferable to that made from mutton, and spoke of the extreme value of extract of meat as a nerve-stimulant, although it was not in itself a perfect food.

Mr. VALENTINE, in replying, said his contention was that Australia should only import extract of meat in the pure state and leave it to be mixed in this country with the various substances added to several much-advertised preparations with a view to increasing its food-value. Extract of meat was a pick-me-up and not a food, he added, but could be put to thousands of uses by a practical housewife or cook.

The lecture was illustrated by lantern-slides of Australian and New Zealand scenery and extract-works.

### Wills of Deceased Chemists.

The will of Mr. J. W. Style, pharmaceutical chemist and druggist, late of Peckham, who died on April 8, 1896, has been proved by Mrs. Style, the widow and sole executrix of the testator, whose personal estate is sworn at 2,398*l*. 3*s*. 3*d*.

The will of Mr. George Patterson, retired chemist and druggist, 6 Church Walk, Ulverstone, who died on August 13, is proved by Mrs. Patterson, the widow and sole executrix of the testator, whose personalty is sworn at 2,445*l*. 5*s*. 10*d*. gross, and 2,394*l*. 0*s*. 4*d*.

The will of Mr. W. A. Waters, chemist and druggist, Rye, Sussex, who died on December 30, is proved by his son, Mr. W. A. Waters, chemist's assistant, and Mr. Walter Dawes, solicitor, Rye, by whom the testator's personalty is sworn at 3,839*l*. 16*s*. 11*d*. gross, and 3,656*l*. 11*s*. 10*d*. net.

Letters of administration to the estate of Mr. Owen R. Barnard, chemist and druggist, 97 Stansted Road, Forest Hill, Surrey, who died on September 21, intestate and unmarried, have been granted to his father, Rev. Robert Barnard, by whom the deceased's personalty is sworn at 139*l*. 6*s*. 4*d*.

The will of Mr. Edwin Sansom, chemist and druggist (retired), Stone Lea Abbey Road, Barrow-in-Furness, who died on February 24, 1897, has been proved by his brother, Mr. J. B. Sanderson, of the Waverley Temperance Hotel, and Mr. J. J. Waddington, 10 Harlington Street, both of Barrow-in-Furness. The testator's personalty is sworn at 843*l*. 19*s*. 4*d*. gross, and 782*l*. 6*s*. net.

## Our Town Traveller.

**B**USINESS is good just now amongst the drug and sundries trade in London. Our representative has not heard much grumbling during his recent rounds, and many express the opinion that the disturbance of trade in consequence of the Jubilee has at last been got over. At the showrooms of

MESSRS. BARCLAY & SONS (LIMITED),

95 Farringdon Street, E.C., there are many new ideas to be seen, among them a cheap line in bath-gloves, all new colours and designs, for the summer season. The firm have also nicely-decorated 4-oz. tins of fullers' earth and violet powder, with name printed on top and each tin filled. Smart young chemists may sell these as a "6d. article reduced to 3½d." with impunity, success, and a considerable profit. The tins may be had either empty or filled, at customer's option. The "Popular Vaporiser," which sells at 6d., has some new features, the most noticeable being the feet which raise the lamp from the object on which it stands, thus saving destruction to tables by contact with the heat. Another compact toilet-box contains a hog-bristle shaving-brush and metal bowl, retailing at 1s. each; a better variety, with badger-hair brush and porcelain dish, retails at 2s. 6d. The new 6d. long-shaped sachets are also sure to be popular. They are shaped like a billet-doux, and have a very elegant appearance and delightful perfume. Acres of puff-boxes were on view, with Alpine scenes surrounded by edelweiss-blossoms and English views surrounded by apple-blossoms, chrysanthemums, and roses, in colours and designs too numerous to mention, but all of them charming. The firm now graduate their sixpenny "Baby Bunting" feeder. A ladies' hair-brush, with bristles of white whalebone, is a novelty, and ladies with abundant tresses will find it a boon. There seems no end to the ingenuity of perfume-bottles and perfume-spray manufacturers, but the "hobnail" pattern in bottles, faced with all colours (rose, lilac, mignonette, green, &c.), and the oval shape in sprays, tinted down in rainbow, green, iridescent, ruby, and rose, seem to be the latest evolutions. The rage in sprays is for small sizes, particularly coloured glass with gilt mounts, and these are a decided advantage to Benedicts, as they do not require so much perfume to fill them. The "Nansen" is a new conceit in smelling-bottles; the bottle is of a peculiar, squat, indescribable shape, handsomely cut, the cork and top part of the bottle being tinted down to represent the Aurora Borealis. Amongst other sundries to be noted are "Moth-preventer," in metal box with perforated bottom, and pot pourri, in 4-oz. wide-mouth bottles, with screw caps and fancy labels, all of which are sixpenny articles.

MESSRS. FASSETT & JOHNSON,

of 31, 32, and 33 Snow Hill, E.C., have just received from Messrs. Seabury & Johnson, of New York, a new aseptic ligature, which has been well taken up by American surgeons, and which is likely to prove as popular on this side. Each string (which is either of catgut or twisted silk), after preliminary treatment, is sealed in a special germ-proof inner capsule. The sealed capsule and contents are then sterilised by heating in cumol (a liquid coal-tar product of high aseptic value with a boiling-point of from 160° to 170° C.) for an hour at a temperature of 330° F., after which the capsules are removed from the steriliser and the cumol completely expelled. Each dry capsule is then protected by an individual container sealed with its own label. This ensures each ligature reaching the hands of the surgeon direct from the steriliser, and avoids the possibility of its becoming infected through any intermediate handling. The ligatures are supplied in various sizes from No. 0 to No. 4, the catgut variety being 30 inches and the silk 1 yard in length. "Another thing," said Mr. Fassett to our representative, "which THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, as the leading trade journal, ought to take up is the subject of belladonna-plasters. We do not object to anyone selling cheaper belladonna-plasters than ours, but we strongly object to their selling as 'belladonna-plaster' a plaster which has only the faintest pretensions to the name by reason of its, perhaps, being made with a few drops of belladonna sprinkled over the surface." After referring to the examination of the plasters

made by Mr. J. Rutherford Hill (*C. & D.*, January 23, 1897, page 118), Mr. Fassett showed our representative a report of assays of belladonna-plasters made in the United States, and sold under their manufacturers' own names ("A" to "F," as below), which gave the following results:—

A's (S. & J.'s) ...	...	0.500	per cent. alkaloid
B's ...	...	0.045	" "
C's ...	...	0.042	" "
D's ...	...	0.056	" "
E's ...	...	0.020	" "
F's ...	...	0.078	" "

In Canada the official analyst at Montreal, he said, had reported similar results from a recent examination of various makes of belladonna-plasters obtained in that city.

Southwark Street is becoming a great locality for wholesale drug firms. Passing through it a few days since, I called at No. 130, to see what

MESSRS. H. E. STEVENSON & CO.

had to show me. There was no need to inquire how business was. During the half-hour which Mr. Stevenson courteously gave me we were interrupted six times by urgent requests for Mr. Stevenson's personal attention. Foreign orders were especially in evidence, those in hand at the time of my visit being from the Continent, South Africa, Australia, and India.

"Any additions to the 'Othniel' brand lately, Mr. Stevenson?" I inquired.

"Well, there are the miscible extracts of coca, kola, cinchona, ginger, and hops for the preparation of the corresponding wines or essences. Of course, we put up these wines in bottles ready for retail, or we supply them in bulk of 25-gal. casks, but some pharmacists have an antipathy to holding wine-licences. To these we supply a special soluble wine-essence in bulk, for sale to the public, to be added to their own wines, using them in the proportion of 1 oz. to the pint in each case. The quinine and coca wine, of course, requires no wine-licence."

"So the 'miscible extract' idea has caught on, has it?"

"It has, and no mistake. We have consistently advocated it in the *C. & D.* for years, and others are taking it up, now that it has been proved so successful."

"Any new summer lines?"

"Yes, we have introduced lately what we think will be a good side-line for chemists. That's the sort of thing" (handing me a very showy bottle of concentrated lemon-squash); "these are, as you see, handsome-tinted squares (reputed quarts), with an artistic label, and a gross or two of those ought to make an effective window-display for summer or autumn trade, don't you think?"

This could not be gainsaid, so we turned to the soluble essences.

"These concentrated soluble essences always go well in the summer, as they are so handy, and so economical for making aerated beverages and fruit syrups. By the way, have you seen the neat little coppers in which we export the oils of lemon and bergamot? These oils are as obtained from one of the largest Sicilian manufacturers, and each copper bears a guarantee of absolute purity and strength."

## New Books.

Beevor, C. E. *Diseases of the Nervous System: a Handbook for Students and Practitioners.* Illus. 7½ × 4½. Pp. 442. 10s. 6d. (H. K. Lewis.)

Strasburger, E., Noll, F., Schenck, H., and Schimper, A. F. W. *Text-book of Botany.* Trans. from the German by H. C. Porter, Ph.D. 594 Illustrations in part coloured. Medium 8vo.

*Text-book of Physiology.* Ed. by E. A. Schäfer. Vol. 1. 10½ × 6½. Pp. 1056. 31s. 6d. (Pentland.)

Tillmanns, H. *Text-book of Surgery.* Trans. from 4th German ed. by B. T. Tilton. Ed. by L. A. Stimson. Vol. 2: Regional Surgery. 8vo. 21s. net. (Hirschfeld.)

*Twentieth-century Practice: an International Encyclopædia of Modern Medical Science by Leading Authorities of Europe and America.* Ed. by Thos. L. Stedman. (20 vols.) Vol. 12: Mental Diseases, Childhood, Old Age. 9½ × 6½. Pp. 850. 21s. net. (Low.)



## The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland and Company Pharmacy.

THE incomplete correspondence published last week did not fully show what had been done by the President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland to get the subject of company pharmacy brought under the consideration of the Select Committee of the House of Lords, which is now considering the Companies Acts.

The first letter (published last week) was from the Registrar of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland to the Registrar of Joint-stock Companies in Dublin. The letter stated that the President was informed that the purpose of the Companies Acts was "to enable any seven or more persons associated for any lawful purpose" to form themselves into a company and be registered. It had come to the knowledge of the Council of the Society that companies had been incorporated and registered for purposes that the individual members of the corporation were disqualified by law to engage in—viz., for keeping open shops for the retailing, dispensing, or compounding of poisons within the meaning of the Irish Pharmacy Act—and asking the Registrar if there was any process in his office by which he could intervene to oppose such registration on application, or to obtain the cancellation of such registration where it had already been obtained.

In reply to the Registrar of Joint-stock Companies' request to be furnished with the names and addresses of the companies referred to, the following letter was sent:—

The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland,  
67 Lower Mount Street, Dublin,  
24th January, 1898.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 21st inst., I am directed by the President to inform you that the following are the names and addresses of some of the most recently formed of the corporations to which he referred:—

Hamilton, Long & Co., Ltd.,	Dublin
Grattan & Co., Ltd.,	Belfast
Cork Chemical and Drug Co., Ltd.,	Cork
Kiloh & Co., Ltd.,	"
*J. Waters & Son, Ltd.,	"
*J. Quirk, Ltd.,	Tullamore
*Byrne's Medical Hall, Ltd.,	Drogheda
H. Williams & Co., Ltd.,	Dublin
†Fannin & Co., Ltd.,	"
Samuel Gibson & Co., Ltd.,	Belfast

The company marked † was formed immediately after the successful prosecution of the firm by the Society for breaches of the Pharmacy Act.

The companies marked \* were formed to avoid threatened prosecution of the unqualified proprietors.

I am also directed to transmit to you the enclosed prospectus of "Ulster Chemists, Limited," and to point out that, while by clause 3 of the Memorandum of Association (page 7), one of the objects is to carry on business as pharmaceutical chemists and compounders of medicines, only one of the directors—Mr. R. W. McKnight—is qualified in that behalf according to law. Messrs. Gibson and McCrea are only qualified to deal in poisons; while Colonel McCalmont and Mr. Needham have no qualification under our Acts.

I am, &c.,

ARTHUR T. FERRALL, Registrar.

The Assistant Registrar of Joint-stock Companies.

The following was the reply from the Companies' Registration Office:—

Companies' Registration Office,  
Custom House, Dublin,  
26th January, 1898.

SIR,—In reference to your letters of the 19th and 24th inst. on the subject of the registration of certain companies, I beg to inform you that the companies which you name appear to have complied with the requirements of the Companies Acts and to have been properly registered, and it is outside my province to take any action in the direction you mention, or to advise you in the matter.

It is, however, open to your Society to inspect on payment of the usual fees the registered documents in the files of this office.

I am, &c.,

A. T. Ferrall, Esq.,

H. McDOWELL

Registrar,

Assistant Registrar.

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

Next, the President wrote to "The Chairman of the House of Lords Committee" as follows:—

The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland,  
67 Lower Mount Street, Dublin,  
4th March, 1898.

MY LORD,—On behalf of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, I respectfully request the attention of your Lordship's Committee to the apparent absence of inquiry as to whether the purpose for which a company is registered is "lawful"; and I enclose you copies of correspondence, and a memorandum of companies formed for purposes which it would be illegal for the members to carry on without the "certificate" of the Registrar of Joint-stock Companies, a position which can hardly have been the intention of the Legislature to sanction, and which frustrates the purposes of special legislation.

The President and one or two other members of Council are prepared to attend before your Committee and give evidence at their own expense.

From the letter of the Registrar of Joint-stock Companies it appears to me that the "lawful purpose" is not recognised as one of the requirements of the Acts.

I respectfully suggest that a general clause should be inserted in any Amendment Act to the effect that "No company may be registered to do acts for which a course of education and examination are required to qualify, unless each member of the company is qualified."

I have, &c.,

ROBERT J. DOWNES,

President.

To the Chairman of the Committee  
of the House of Lords on the

"Companies Acts' Amendment Bill."

*Memorandum of Some Companies Formed to Evade the  
Pharmacy Acts (Ireland), 1875 and 1890.*

No. 1.—A leather-dealer, on being warned by the police against compounding medical prescriptions and selling poisons, formed a limited-liability company with a capital of fifty pounds (£50). The shop is styled "The Medical Hall."

No. 2.—A "chemist and druggist," after prosecution for compounding, formed a limited company, which carries on the compounding of medical prescriptions.

No. 3.—An unqualified trader, styling himself a "druggist," being warned, formed a limited company and assumed the title "chemists and druggists."

No. 4.—A firm of medical booksellers and surgical-instrument dealers, having, after repeated warnings, been fined for selling poisons, formed a limited company, and now also compound medical prescriptions.

No. 5.—A retired chandler carried on a "medical hall." On inquiries from the police and the Society he formed a limited company.

No. 6.—An oil and colour dealer, having been fined for selling poison, formed a limited company.

No. 7.—A number of unqualified persons—some of whom have already been fined for breaches of the Pharmacy Acts—have joined with a few qualified men in the formation of a limited company to purchase and carry on the businesses of the latter, together with several other medical halls.

No. 8.—A limited company—none of the shareholders of which are qualified—has recently been formed, with a capital of £200, to carry on a "medical hall." The managing director is a "contractor," and he and a married woman bearing the same surname (presumably his wife) hold 193l. of the capital.

Mr. H. P. St. John, clerk to the Select Committee, writing on March 15, says:—"I beg to inform you that your letter with inclosures of the 4th inst. has been laid before the Select Committee of this House on the Companies Bill, and I am instructed to say that the Committee are of opinion that it is not expedient to extend their inquiry so as to include the subject which you have brought under their Lordships' consideration."

The President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland has since addressed the following letter to the Committee:—

18th March, 1898.

MY LORD,—I regret the decision of your Lordship's Committee in the matter of my letter of the 4th inst., on behalf of this Society, and hope your Lordship may take a larger and more interested view of the case when it is brought before your Lordship's House.

The reply received does not disclose your Lordship's reasons for declining the evidence offered, but I see by the daily papers that you regarded it as "evidence on matters relating to conditions of sale of drugs," and that it "was rather within the province of an amendment of the Pharmaceutical Acts," and that Lord Shand feared "we might have the same sort of thing from every trade in the United Kingdom." The draft of our resolution being to protect those occupations "for which a course of education and examination are required to qualify," can only protect those

which it is the intention and desire of the Legislature should not be followed except by those with a proper qualification.

As was mentioned in our letter of the 4th inst. apothecaries, who stand as medical practitioners, are involved; and, since that letter was written, in looking up evidence to lay before the Committee, we find one company is actually registered with power "to carry on the business of physicians and surgeons."

That the legal professions stand in no better position must be evident to your Lordship, unless it be for protective powers within the profession itself, or Rules of Court.

It is not to be expected that, because we combine trade with our calling, our appeal is not to be considered when we raise the outposts' alarm.

My Lord, it is because this is a general and far-reaching matter that the Society seek for the amendment of the "Companies Acts"—where the evil lies, and not for amendment of its own particular Acts. To make it a particular question for our own cult would weaken our case, and make it appear to be only a matter of trades unionism; and, further, the case is as much a British one as an Irish, and to seek the amendment of our own Act would not only leave the case untouched as regards Great Britain, but would have the further disadvantage of being another request for Special Irish Legislation.

The evil is in the Companies Acts, and ought to be remedied there.

Again, my Lord, craving your further consideration of this question,

I have the honour to be, my Lord,

Your Lordship's obedient servant,

ROBERT J. DOWNES,  
President.

To the Right Honourable  
the Chairman of the Select Committee  
of the House of Lords on the Companies Bill.

## New Companies and Company News.

**SOUTHERN STATES OIL COMPANY (LIMITED).**—Capital 6,000*l.* in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire, own, and work p-troleum and other oil-wells in Texas, U.S.A., or elsewhere.

**VERMITE SYNDICATE (LIMITED).**—Capital 107*l.* in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To manufacture, sell, and deal in a preparation for exterminating vermin. Registered without articles of association.

**MAYO & RUGG (LIMITED).**—Capital 5,000*l.* in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To carry on the business of mineral and aerated water manufacturers and merchants. The first directors are:—Edmund Mayo and Edward Rugg. Qualification, 200*l.*

**ROMANIS (LIMITED).**—Capital 3,000*l.* in 5*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire the exclusive monopoly for four years to import into and sell in the U.K. the mineral waters derived from the springs situate near Brohl, on the Rhine, in Rhenish Prussia. The first directors are:—R. Reitmeyer and F. C. Becker. Qualification, 50*l.*

**EUXINE SYNDICATE (LIMITED).**—Capital 100,000*l.* in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire from Stamati Coumbary and Rudolph Farkatch an option over certain oil-bearing leases and premises situate in the districts of Anapa and Taman, in the Empire of Russia, and to deal in and refine petroleum and other oils and their products.

**CHINOSOL HYGIENIC COMPANY (LIMITED).**—Capital 20,000*l.* in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To adopt an agreement with Franz Fritsche and Leopold Ostermann, and to carry on the business of chemists, druggists, drysalts, oil and colourmen, &c. The first subscribers (each with one share) are:—Arthur Johnson, Frank Jackson, John W. Bi-hop, Theodor Fritz, Otto Seelisch, John A. Wink, and G. Cunningham, all of London or its neighbourhood. Registered without articles of association.

**"GYE PROCESS" FRESH FOODS COMPANY (LIMITED).**—Capital 24,100*l.* in 1*l.* shares (6,000 preference, 18,000 ordinary, and 100 founders'). Objects: To enter into an agreement with the Home and Foreign Industries (Limited), and to manufacture, sell, and deal in "Gye's Arrested Fresh Foods," and any preparations of medicinal, therapeutic, dietetic, hygienic, or cosmetic value. Directors' qualifica-

tion, 250 ordinary or preference, or 3 founders' shares. Remuneration, 500*l.* per annum, divisible.

**BOOTS (LIMITED)** have declared a quarterly dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the preference shares, and at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares.

**THE Mannheim Chemical-works (Vercin Chemischer Fabrik, Mannheim)** made a gross profit of 1,150,000*m.* last year, and net profit of 700,000*m.* (35,000*l.*), from which they will pay an 8-per-cent. dividend.

**A. J. WHITE (LIMITED).**—The dividend warrants for the fourth quarterly payment on the 6-per-cent. cumulative preference shares in this company will be posted on March 31. Transfers registered up to March 24, inclusive, will participate.

**ANGLO-SICILIAN SULPHUR COMPANY (LIMITED).**—An interim dividend on the preference shares at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum (calculated on the amount per share paid up) for the half-year ended January 31 last will be payable on March 26.

**MAGOR (LIMITED), Birmingham,** have resolved to pay an interim dividend on the 6-per-cent. cumulative preference shares up to the 31st inst. The directors explain that it is more convenient to pay the dividends half-yearly to March 31 and September 30 instead of to Christmas and midsummer, the periods mentioned in the prospectus.

**SINGLETON & COLE (LIMITED).**—The profits of the past year amount to 5,623*l.*, which, with 3,297*l.* brought forward, makes 8,914*l.* available for dividend, which is proposed at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum to old and new shareholders. This will absorb 4,197*l.*; 800*l.* is to be added to the reserve fund, which will bring it up to 4,000*l.*, the balance (3,920*l.*) to be carried forward.

**JOHNSON, MATTHEY & CO. (LIMITED),** metal-refiners and chemical-manufacturers, Hatton Garden, E.C., have during this week advertised for the subscription of 250,000*l.* 4-per-cent. mortgage debenture stock at 102*l.* per cent. The company was formed in 1891 with a share capital of 900,000*l.* in 30,000 5-per-cent. preference and 30,000 ordinary shares of 15*l.* each, of which 300,000*l.* of preference and 300,000*l.* of ordinary shares have been issued, all being held by the members of the late firm of Johnson, Matthey & Co. and their sons. The prospectus stated that "the nature of the business involves the continual purchase for refining and sale of large quantities of the precious metals, which have to be paid for on arrival in this country, and as the production of these metals and their import into England are largely increasing, it has become desirable in the interests of the business to have the command of an increased amount of capital."

**SPRATT'S PATENT (LIMITED).**—The twelfth annual general meeting was held on March 22. Mr. G. B. Batchelor, who presided, said that for the fourth time in succession the directors were able to recommend a dividend, making 12½ per cent. for the whole year, as compared with 10 per cent. for some years previously. The business continued prosperous, and the sales were increasing. They had this year written off 3,000*l.* instead of 2,000*l.*, as hitherto, from their premises, plant, &c., thinking it prudent to do this in view of the large additions made to their plant and machinery and of the extension to the factory at Poplar. The working of the Poplar factory was fully satisfactory. Spratt's Patent (Germany) continued to make satisfactory progress, and they now paid dividends to this company. The directors asked the shareholders' approval to the appointment of Mr. Wingrove as a director. An agreement had been entered into with that gentleman for continuing his exclusive services as general manager for at least seven years. Mr. Wingrove was appointed a director.

**PRICE'S PATENT CANDLE CO. (LD).**—The annual meeting was held at the Causton Street Hotel on March 18. Mr. Thos. C. Wright in the chair. In moving the adoption of the report, the Chairman said that there was at present no indication of an improvement in the profit rate. The continued decadence of profit in the candle-trade was attributable to the keenness of competition. The recent introduction



from America of a paraffin known as "White Scale," which was capable of being moulded into candles in the condition in which it was imported, and which was sold at a lower price than semi-refined wax prepared from crude paraffin, either Scotch or American—the introduction of this candle material, and its relatively low price, had stimulated the manufacture of paraffin-wax candles by small makers all over the country. After explaining how the allowance for depreciation was arrived at (improved processes making plant obsolete), the Chairman said that, under the head of capital expenditure, the company had in the last fifteen years spent on the factories and land 117,346%, and had written off for depreciation 162,500%. Consequently the amount written off for depreciation had exceeded the capital expenditure by 451,154%. Fifteen years ago the 37 500 shares were worth only their nominal value of 16% per share, or in the aggregate 600,000%; that day, taking the value at 38% per share, which was about the market price, they were worth in the aggregate 1,425 000%. The dividend for the year was a trifle over 10 per cent. The investments yielded interest at the rate of 3% 15s. 5% per cent. on their market value, and of 3% 19s. 8% per cent. on their book value. The report was adopted, Sir P. Spokes, Deputy-Chairman, seconding.

**UNITED ALKALI COMPANY.**—The seventh annual meeting was held yesterday at Liverpool, Sir Charles Tennant, Bart., President, in the chair. Mr. Brock (Chairman of the Directors' Board), in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the U.S.A. Tariff increased the duties by 50 per cent. on articles of their manufacture already dutiable, and excessive duties on other articles previously admitted duty-free. In Russia things were not much better, the duties levied by those two countries ranging from 45 per cent. up to nearly 400 per cent. of the free-on-board values of the various articles. In France and Germany they had also heavy rates and duties to face. It was evident, therefore, that if they were to retain this important portion of their trade—and they meant to retain it—they must follow the example of some of their competitors and have an interest in manufacturing in the countries themselves. They had made arrangements with their continental competitors by which they were able to retain a certain portion of their continental trade in alkalis at fairly remunerative rates. Mr. E. K. Muspratt, in seconding the motion, alluded to the craze which had arisen in regard to manufacturing by electric processes, remarking that up to the present they had no proof that such processes could be carried on economically, but the directors were quite prepared, as soon as that fact was demonstrated, to adopt the processes. In reply to questions, Mr. Brock said that they had spent more than the 600,000% in extensions of plant, &c., but they had also had to abandon a large quantity which had become obsolete. A portion of the money expended in new buildings did relate to works in America, but he could not prudently give more details as to that. The resolution to adopt the report and accounts, &c., was carried unanimously.

## Personalities.

**DR. MITCHELL BRUCE** has undertaken to write a short biography of the late Sir Richard Quain, Bart., for early publication.

**HENDRIK IBSEN**, the famous Norwegian dramatist, spent the five years from his 16th to his 21st year as a chemist's pupil at Skien, in Norway.

**MR. MAX VOIGT**, procurist and chief accountant to Schering's of Berlin, celebrated on March 15 his semi-jubilee with the firm, on which occasion the directors and staff presented him with a testimonial, and the workers gave him an address.

**MR. F. JANSON HANBURY**, F.L.S. of Messrs. Allen & Hanburys (Limited), Bethnal Green, E., goes by the *Lucania* this week on a business-trip to the United States and Canada. Any of our subscribers there who wish to communicate with Mr. Hanbury should address him, c/o Messrs. W. H. Schieffelin & Co., 172 William Street, New York.

**MR. ROBERT HARRY MITCHELL**, whose death we announced a fortnight ago, was very popular in Liverpool, and no doubt his friends will be glad to see his portrait reproduced. He served his apprenticeship with Mr. William



Wallace, of 71 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, and from there went to Liverpool in 1885. He filled situations in the pharmacies of Mr. R. C. Buck, Breck Road; Mr. R. Pheysey, Waterloo; and Messrs. Symes & Co., before buying the business at Old Swan which he carried on till his death.

AN interesting event has occurred in the establishment of Messrs. S. Maw, Son & Thompson. The two members of their staff who have been for the longest period in the



MR. BAILEY.

employment of the firm are retiring from service this Lady Day quarter, with the hearty good wishes of the firm and of their comrades, and in both cases the firm, we learn, are



MR. T. C. W. MARTIN.

providing a liberal pension for both of these gentlemen in recognition of their exceptionally long and faithful services. Mr. John Bailey, the senior of the two, has completed sixty years with Messrs. S. Maw, Son & Thompson. He has filled

various positions in the house, and for some years past has had charge of the sponge-department. Mr. T. C. W. Martin has been "Maw's town traveller" as long as most of us remember, and in that capacity has come into contact with an immense number of London chemists, who hail him as a friend whenever he appears. He has fulfilled the function of M.C. at a long series of chemists' balls, and has been a familiar figure at most of the social functions where London chemists have gathered. Mr. Martin completed fifty-four years with the firm on Thursday last. Both of these two men came into Maw's house as boys, and have grown with the business. We wish them much happiness in their future well-earned rest.

MR. HENRY FRASER, pharmaceutical chemist and Pereira medallist, has obtained the Fyfe Jamieson gold medal for anatomy at the recent medical examinations held at Marischal College, Aberdeen. Mr. Fraser also takes first place for regional anatomy, materia medica and therapeutics, and second for physiology.

MR. W. H. GIBSON, chemist, King's Road, Brighton, a director of the Brighton West Pier Company, was a witness last week in the action brought by the company against "The Mayor, &c., of Brighton," for damages caused to the pier during the storm of December 4 last, by, it was alleged, the negligence of the Corporation in allowing baulks of timber to remain unsecured on the beach.

THE chemists on the new London County Council have been appointed to committee work for the present year as follows:—Mr. T. H. W. Idris on the Main Drainage, Water and Parliamentary Committees; Mr. J. McDougall on the Asylums, Finance, Theatres, Housing of the Working-classes, and Water Committees; Mr. R. A. Robinson on the Parliamentary, Establishment, and Industrial Schools Committees; Mr. C. Goddard-Clarke on the Public Control and Parks and Open Spaces Committees; and Colonel Probyn on the Water, Improvements, and Highways Committees.

## Bankruptcies.

*Re* RUPERT LEONARD GIBSON, Loughborough, Chemist and Druggist.

THE examination of this bankrupt was held at the Leicester Bankruptcy Court on March 17. The liabilities were set down at 435*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*, and the assets 133*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.* Debtor stated that he started business in Loughborough about twenty years ago, with practically no capital. Until a few years ago he managed to earn a fairly good living, although he was never able to save money. About 1894 a large firm of druggists opened a shop close to his own, and he immediately felt the effect of their competition. Debtor also practised as a dentist. He was first served with a writ three or four years ago, and since then he had been paying his creditors by the sale of his stock.

The Official Receiver: The stock is extremely small for a shop like yours. I suppose you have been exhausting your stock to pay your debts as far as you could?—Yes.

The Official Receiver: Why did not you look into your affairs to see how you stood as soon as you felt any pressure? If the creditors get 5*s.* in the pound, it is as much as they will; but if you had stopped twelve months ago they would have got a bigger dividend. You have gone on practically as long as you could, and your stock is reduced to a mere nothing for a shop of this sort.

Debtor said his failure was due to the competition he had to contend with.

The examination was closed.

*Re* JOSEPH EDWIN MEREDITH, 42 Cardiff Road, Aberavon, Glamorganshire, Chemist's Assistant.

IN this case the Official Receiver's report shows 101*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.* liabilities and no assets. Insolvency is attributed to "ill-health, bad debts, and slackness in trade." Debtor, it appears, has been in business since September, 1896, as a licensed victualler, his wife superintending that branch, while he has been engaged with his professional duties. He put 30*l.* of his money into the business and his wife 100*l.* A creditor issued a writ against him for 60*l.* odd. His wife claims the furniture.

## Gazette.

### PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

Barritt, G. L., and Byham, W. L., under the style of Barritt & Byham, Spalding, physicians and surgeons.

Bower, J., and Downham, W. G., under the style of Downham & Co., Bradford, wholesale and retail chemists and druggists.

Miller, F. M., and MacVine, J. W., under the style of Miller & MacVine, Northholme, Upper Clapton, and Amhurst Road, Stoke Newington, N., surgeons and apothecaries.

Rees, R., and Latham, G., under the style of Rees & Latham, West Bromwich, physicians and surgeons.

Shone, W. J., and Culhane, F. J. F., under the style of Shone & Culhane, Great Marlow, surgeons.

Watson, E., and Boustead, E., under the style of the Valnera Co. Liverpool, patent-medicine manufacturers and vendors.

### THE BANKRUPTCY ACTS, 1883 AND 1890.

#### ADJUDICATIONS

Bourke, Isidore McWilliam, Nevem Square, Earl's Court, S.W., late Red-liffe Square, West Kensington, W., doctor of medicine.

Conisbee, Alfred, Leatherhead, veterinary surgeon.

Davies, Charles Edward (carrying on business as P. H. Schroder & Co., also formerly as C. E. Davies & Co., afterwards and now as Parker, Davies & Co.), Mountford Lodge, Kent Road, Gravesend, S.E., and Mining Lane, E.C., general merchant, disinfectant-manufacturer, and oil-refiner.

Parkins, John Ashley, Lower Broughton, Salford, late Manchester, late dentist, now dentist's assistant.

## Business Changes.

MR. CHARLES A. PRATT, chemist and druggist, has opened a business at 38 Fore Street, Saltash.

DAY'S SOUTHERN DRUG COMPANY (LIMITED) will shortly open a branch shop at 23 Leigh Road, Eastleigh, Hants.

MESSRS. PAVEY & Co., chemists, of King Street, Ramsgate, have disposed of their business to the manager, Mr. J. H. Skitt.

MESSRS. JOHN PHILLIPS & SONS have removed their sponge warehouse from Roscoe Street, Bunhill Row, to George's Row, York Road, City Road, E.C.

MR. ASTOR BOISSELER, drug and chemical merchant, the agent in this country for the Pharmacie Centrale de France, removes on March 23 to 16 Fenchurch Avenue, E.C. (entrance by 36 Lime Street).

MESSRS. OPPENHEIMER, SON & Co. (LIMITED) are removing their offices from 14 Worship Street to more extensive premises at Victoria House, Thames Embankment (two doors from Blackfriars Bridge).

MR. HENRY WILLIAMS, of Bedale, Yorkshire, has purchased the business of Mr. T. L. Brown, chemist, Swan Bank, Congleton. The transfer was effected through the agency of Messrs. Thos. Tomlinson & Son, Manchester.

MESSRS. SHIRLEY BROTHERS, manufacturers of druggists sundries, have removed to larger premises at Whitecross Works, Rockingham Street, Newington Causeway, S.E., where they will have greater facilities for carrying on their increased manufacturing business.

MR. SAMUEL BLACKBURN has sold his business at 23 Tyrril Street, Bradford, Yorkshire, to Mr. Louis J. Wells, late manager for Messrs. Gilbert & Hall, Bournemouth. Mr. Wells takes over also all interest in the proprietary medicine known as Blackburn's currant cough-elixir.

DAY'S METROPOLITAN DRUG COMPANY (LIMITED) have opened new branches at the Parade, Leytonstone, and at 265 Roman Road, Bow, E. The premises taken by them at 21 Marshalsea Road, S.E. (as noted in *C. & D.*, March 5, page 391), consist of a six-floor warehouse, which they are using as a distributing centre. They contemplate opening retail branches shortly at 251 Caledonian Road, N., 42 Warwick Street, Belgrave Road, S.W., and 60 Lower Marsh, Lambeth, S.E.



## Legal Reports.

### THE PHARMACY ACT. APPRENTICES SELL POISONS.

At Haslingden County Court on March 17 an action was brought by the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain against two youths named Frederick Harris and Walter Riley, apprentices with Mr. John Law, chemist, Accrington, for selling proprietary medicines containing scheduled poisons, their names not being on the register as required by the Act.

Mr. Williams, barrister, London, prosecuted on behalf of the Society. He called evidence to show that on November 13 an inspector of the Society called at Mr. Law's shop, and, after inquiring for the proprietor and being informed he was not in, asked for, and was supplied with, a bottle of Mrs. Winslow's syrup by Riley, and a bottle of Towle's chlorodyne by Harris. For the defence Mr. Withers, solicitor, Accrington, pleaded that the defendants were never asked whether Mr. Law was present, and that, as a matter of fact, he might have been on the premises at the time. He urged that the offence was only technical. A penalty of 5*l.* was imposed in each case, and the plaintiffs were allowed their costs.

### SALE OF LAUDANUM.

At Leicester, on March 22, Matthew Chapman, shopkeeper, of Great Wigston, was defendant in an action brought by the Pharmaceutical Society to recover a penalty incurred by keeping open shop for retailing laudanum, contrary to the Pharmacy Act. A private inquiry agent gave evidence that he was served with a pennyworth of laudanum by a female who obtained it from a large bottle labelled "Laudanum." Defendant did not deny the charge, but said the laudanum was sold without his knowledge while he was away from the shop. The Judge gave a verdict for the Society for 5*l.*

### A MUNYON'S REMEDIES' TESTIMONIAL.

In the Glasgow Sheriff Court on March 17, before Sheriff Guthrie, Mrs. Annie Weir, 482 Garscube Road, Glasgow, claimed damages from Munyon's Homeopathic Home Remedies' Company for "loss, injury, and damage sustained by pursuer in consequence of the defenders, or those for whom they are responsible, having unwarrantably, and without the knowledge or consent of the pursuer, published in the *Evening Citizen* of December 17, and other papers in publication, a testimonial, purporting to be signed by pursuer, that her husband, John Weir, had derived great benefit from the defenders' alleged rheumatic cure. The defenders, or those for whom they are responsible, well knowing that pursuer never signed or gave any authority to anyone to sign any testimonial or other writing referring to the defenders or any of their medicines or cures, yet signed and published said bogus testimonial, with pursuer's name at the end of it, for the purpose of endeavouring to get people to believe that the said John Weir had benefited by defenders' alleged cure; and by so wrongously using pursuer's name and publishing it as connected with their alleged cure, defenders have annoyed and hurt the feelings of the said pursuer, and held her up to the public contempt and ridicule, for which she is entitled to solatium to the extent of 25*l.*, which she restricts to 12*l.*"

Mr. Barras, who appeared for pursuer, stated that the action was raised in December last against Professor Munyon.

The Sheriff: What is he professor of?

Mr. Barras: Some alleged rheumatic and other cures. In order to get over the question of jurisdiction he took out a second action, this time against the company. That action was also before his Lordship.

Mr. Campbell, who appeared for defenders, said the first action was raised against Professor Munyon, who at present was living in London. They wrote to Mr. Barras, saying the Court had no jurisdiction over Professor Munyon as an individual, and telling him it would be at his own risk if he

took decree out and forced it. Professor Munyon was not in Glasgow, and never lived in Glasgow. Mr. Barras wisely refused to take decree, and here they had another action.

Mr. Barras said he was willing to let the first action drop. Mr. Campbell: The Munyon Company is registered in New York, but carries on business in Glasgow.

Mr. Barras, in stating his case, said neither the pursuer nor her husband knew anything about the circular till they saw it in the papers. Neither of them signed it, and it was published without their knowledge or consent.

The Sheriff: Why did not you go to the Fiscal, if it is a forgery?

Mr. Barras: I went to the Fiscal, and he told me he would see you on the subject. I think the Fiscal has not done anything.

Mr. Campbell said his evidence was this. Their lady canvasser called on Mrs. Weir, and asked her if her husband had been benefited by Munyon's rheumatic cure. She stated that he had. She also told the lady canvasser that she might use that information in any way she chose. Pursuer's husband had previously called, and solicited a sample of Munyon's cure. He got a free sample, and surely they were entitled to ask if he was benefited by giving him that free sample. They were informed that he had been benefited, and published the testimonial accordingly. When the complaint was made that it had been published without Weir's authority, they wrote to Mr. Barras on November 19, from the London office, stating that they endeavoured to exercise the greatest care in obtaining statements of the results of their medicines, and that they had no need to use testimonials which were not genuine, as they had in their possession hundreds more than they could afford to publish. He did not think this was a case that should be considered at all. He submitted that it was a totally irrelevant claim.

The Sheriff: I suppose this case is got up for advertising purposes.

Mr. Campbell: We have no knowledge of anything of the kind.

The Sheriff: It looks very like it.

Mr. Barras: The object of the case is to warn the public that this kind of thing has been done. That is the sole object. The reporters have attended in respect of the case being against Munyon. They asked me to let them know when the proof was fixed, and I did so.

The Sheriff: I do not know about it, but it often excites my amazement that cases of this kind are selected by the reporters for publication. It cannot be supposed that it is done without some inducement.

Mr. Campbell: This action is brought at the instance of Mrs. Weir, and not at the instance of the man who got the rheumatic cure, and who is said to have been cured by it.

The Sheriff: At the instance of the party whose name is attached to the testimonial.

Mr. Campbell: What does it bear? It says John Weir derived some benefit from Munyon's rheumatic cure.

The Sheriff: And that the pains have quite gone. It suggests Mr. Weir is a pessimist of the most determined character, because he says he intends using all their other remedies. (Laughter.) I think he must have anticipated a great many rheumatic attacks. (Laughter.)

Mr. Campbell: It is not a slanderous statement. There is nothing in this claim saying it is false.

Mr. Barras: I do not sue in respect of slander.

Mr. Campbell: In order to make this claim relevant the pursuer must first state that Mr. Weir did not receive any benefit from Munyon's rheumatic cure.

The Sheriff: He must aver that the statement is false.

Mr. Campbell: And he must also aver that this notice was put in maliciously, and with intent to injure pursuer.

Mr. Barras: This is not an action for slander. I sue because my name was published without my knowledge or consent. I think the claim is properly stated, because it says "for the purpose of endeavouring to get people to believe that the said John Weir had benefited by the defenders' alleged cure."

The Sheriff: What is the damage you suffered?

Mr. Barras: The damage is a question for your Lordship. The whole matter that is objected to is that the pursuer's name has been published in connection with anything about Munyon; and we are not here for any monetary damage, but as a protest against our name being used in this way.

Mr. Campbell: The testimonial was withdrawn when complaint was made.

The Sheriff: Is a person whose name appears in one of these medical circulars a contemptible individual?

Mr. Campbell: It depends on the character of the advertisement.

The Sheriff: I think I have seen very distinguished people in such advertisements. I remember there was an old earl, about a generation ago, whose name was constantly appearing. Whether he got anything for it I do not know, but certainly it continued to appear in the newspapers for many years.

Mr. Campbell: You will observe, my Lord, that Weir goes for the cure, and then says he is held up to public contempt. I think it is an extravagant and preposterous claim.

The Sheriff: It is the same thing, Mr. Campbell, as if the family doctor were to advertise that he had effected a cure of measles, diabetes, or anything of that sort.

Mr. Campbell: I submit not. In that case my family doctor is debarred by the rules of the profession, and if he commits a breach of these he is liable. This is a trading company, and all that is said is simply that the pursuer has tried their wares and derived benefit therefrom. The pursuer has not said that the statement that he derived benefit is false.

The Sheriff: Suppose you or I had bought and been greatly satisfied with Lipton's tea, or his pigs, or anything of that sort—(laughter)—would we have an action for damages against Mr.—I beg pardon, Sir—Thomas Lipton?

Mr. Barras: It would altogether depend upon what the advertisement said.

Mr. Campbell: "Derived some benefit from Lipton's tea, and meant to use his sausages," for instance. (Laughter.)

The Sheriff: If Mr. Campbell could make out that Mrs. Weir said, "You may use our name," would you still insist upon your action?

Mr. Barras: No; there would be an end of the case then. I think that would be a good defence. If Mr. Campbell can show that Mrs. Weir or her husband directly or indirectly sanctioned any reference by them to Munyon's cure for public or private use, I withdraw the ease.

The Sheriff: That is the crucial point in the case. At the same time, one can well imagine a case in which a person would be much annoyed, and perhaps exposed to ridicule, by having his or her name attached to a testimonial in a newspaper. It was rather a serious thing, even upon Mr. Campbell's own showing, to say that while the lady canvasser got permission to use a name in any way which would be of advantage to Munyon, and, instead of simply referring to her, to go and connect a testimonial, and without asking her to sign it, put it in the newspapers as if it had been signed by her. At the same time his Lordship did not think there was any precedent for the action, and he dismissed it, and gave no expenses.

#### SACCHARIN CORPORATION (LIMITED) v. CONSTANTIN FAHLBERG, AND WILSON AND OTHERS.

THIS was a motion brought in the Chancery Division on Wednesday before Mr. Justice Stirling, in which the plaintiffs applied for judgment on admissions in the pleadings, under Order 32, Rule 6. Mr. Moulton, Q.C., Mr. Jenkin, Q.C., and Mr. Kirby appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Upjohn, Q.C. for the respondents. Counsel explained that this order enabled any party, at any stage of any case or matter, where admissions of fact had been made on the pleadings, or otherwise, without waiting for the termination of any other question between the parties, to apply to the Court for such judgment or order, on such terms as the party might be entitled to. Under this rule the present plaintiffs move for an order declaring that they are the owners of certain letters patent specified in their statement of claim. The defendant Fahlberg would in this case be ordered to deliver to the plaintiff company as directed the assignment of these letters patent and do other necessary acts in accordance therewith, or with such other order as the Court might think just. The motion was mentioned to his Lordship in December, and it was ordered to be put into the gene al list.

The Saccharin Corporation (Limited) claim to be the

assignees of the benefit of a certain contract from the second defendant—Wilson, Salamon & Co. (Limited). The substantial defendant is Constantin Fahlberg. The statement of claim is based on an indenture of January, 1893, the contents of which the defendants do not admit.

Mr. Jenkin said the claim was one for specific performance. The point at issue between the parties was a point of law.

The motion was adjourned.

#### INCORRECT SPELLING DOES NOT MAKE A FANCY WORD.

AN interesting point in trade-mark law was settled on March 18 by the Court of Appeal. Messrs. Ripley & Son, of Bradford, wanted to register the word "Pirle" as a trade-mark for woollen fabrics. This word, they said, was almost an anagram of their name. As such it is likely they would have got their registration. But it appeared that they had previously applied for the registration of the word "Pearl" for the same goods, and this the Comptroller had refused, on the ground that it was a commendatory word. He thought "Pirle" was a mere misspelling of the same word. Mr. Justice Kekewich so decided, and now the Court of Appeal supported this ruling.

#### SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

##### SPIRIT OF NITRE.

MR. JOHN FRANK KINGZETT, chemist and druggist, Evesham, was summoned on March 15 for selling  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint of spirit of nitre which the county analyst, Dr. Swete, said did not answer to the tests of the B.P. It only yielded three times its own volume of nitric-acid gas instead of five times, and its sp. gr. was '850 instead of '845. Mr. Wm. Smith, solicitor, defended.

The purchase of the drug was proved by Kate Hemming, who acted under the instructions of the police. She stated that defendant charged her 3s. for  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint, but told her that the right price was 3s. 6d. Asked by Mr. Smith how the price came to be reduced, the witness said she told Mr. Kingzett that she did not think it was so expensive as 3s. 6d. per  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint.

Mr. Smith: Did he not supply you with sweet spirit of nitre at the lower price?—No, Sir, I did not hear him say anything about sweet spirit of nitre. Further pressed, the witness said she had never purchased a sample of the drug before, and she could not say why she thought it should not be so expensive as 3s. 6d. per  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint.

Police-constable Yarnold stated that when he told defendant for what purpose the sample was purchased he replied, "If I had known that I would have charged you more."

For the defence, Mr. Smith said originally there was a drug known in the London Pharmacopœia as sweet spirit of nitre, which was a common article of commerce. Recently an attempt had been made to raise the quality of this drug, and it had been given a new name and a new standard in the British Pharmacopœia. This new substance was called spirit of nitrous ether. His client was asked for spirit of nitre, but he was prosecuted for not selling spirit of nitrous ether. Spirit of nitre was an old form, and there was no standard for it in the British Pharmacopœia. Dr. Swete had referred to the standard of the B.P. for spirit of nitrous ether, and he was not quite accurate in that. The B.P. said "not much less than five times its own volume." He could show, if necessary, from an article in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST that sweet spirit of nitre, as a rule, gave off twice its own volume, but they had it from Dr. Swete that this sample gave off three times its own volume. Another analyst said it gave off three and a half times its own volume. Cases of this kind had been brought in various parts of the country, but there had never been a conviction.

Mr. T. E. Doeg, chemist and druggist, Evesham, gave evidence in support of the solicitor's statement. In cross-examination he said if persons asked for spirit of nitre he supplied them with nitrous ether. He did not keep the old form of spirit of nitre.

The defendant also gave evidence and stated that the purchaser asked for spirit of nitre. They had some conversation about the price, and considering the quantity required



he said he would only charge her 3s. instead of 3s. 6d. He labelled the bottle "Sweet spirit of nitre."

The case was dismissed, but the Magistrates declined to allow costs to the defence.

#### CREAM OF TARTAR.

AT Reigate Police Court on March 19, Mr. Joseph Martin, of Horley, was summoned for selling bicarbonate of sodium as cream of tartar.

The defence pleaded that Mr. Martin had had in a new stock just before the visit of the inspector, and an apprentice, who was instructed to attend to it, had made a mistake by placing the bicarbonate in the cream-of-tartar bottle. A fine of 5s., with 12s. 6d. costs, was imposed.

#### COUNTY COURT CASES.

##### PERFUMERY-LABELS.

IN the City of London Court on Monday, before Mr. G. Pitt-Lewis, Q.C., Deputy-Judge, Mr. M. S. Chatterton, 132 Queen Victoria Street, E.C., sought to recover 5l. 0s. 6d. for perfumery-labels supplied to the order of the defendant, Mr. C. Sherwood, trading as Charles Grant & Co., perfumers, 4 Cotton Street. The plaintiff stated that his traveller brought him the order. They first submitted a sketch for lavender-water labels, and then for Parma-violet labels. The defendant ordered 500 eau-de-Cologne labels. That was followed by an order for 25,000 Parma-violet labels at 3s. 6d. per 1,000. When all the labels were delivered on July 1, the defendant returned them, saying they were badly printed and too late. Not a word was stipulated about time when the order was given. The defendant informed the Court that the order was given at the latter end of April. At that time they told the plaintiff that the labels must be ready in a fortnight, as the scents and perfumes were to be sold in connection with the Queen's Jubilee. Having waited for some time he obtained the labels elsewhere. Two months was an unreasonable time to keep him waiting for labels. The plaintiff's traveller denied that anything was said about the labels being ready in a fortnight. The plaintiff called a witness in support of the contention raised, but the Deputy-Judge thought the time was unreasonable, and he found for the defendant, with costs.

##### NOT UNREASONABLE DELAY.

AT Bournemouth County Court, on March 16, before Judge Philbrick, Messrs. Dowden (Limited), Bournemouth, and Messrs. Ash Brothers, of Newport (Isle of Wight), for 21l. for ten gross of crystals for making summer drinks. The goods were ordered from the plaintiffs' traveller in April, 1896. They were for summer consumption, and were made up in a parcel and placed in the stores on April 30 for delivery. On that day defendant wrote stating that as the goods had not come to hand he cancelled the order. The plaintiffs said there had been no unreasonable delay, but the defence contended that the goods were ordered to be delivered immediately, but were not delivered until May 8. The Judge said the meaning of the word "immediately" must be taken in connection with the nature of the goods ordered. If a man bought a hat to be sent to his house "at once" a delay of ten days would be unreasonable, but in the case of goods which had to be manufactured such promptitude could not be reasonably expected. He did not think there had been any unreasonable delay, and judgment would be for the plaintiffs.

THE defendants in the "Rendell's Patent" action, reported last week, were the British Medicinal [not Medical] Capsules Company (Limited).

WRECK OF A CHEMIST'S POSTAL-DEPARTMENT.—The postal-department attached to the chemist's shop of Mr. Samuel Duncan, West Blackhall Street, Greenock, was wrecked on Tuesday evening by the collapse of a large sugar-store next door. Fortunately the crash came after the young ladies employed in the office had left, and no one was hurt by the accident. Some stones penetrated into Mr. Duncan's chemist's shop.

## Westminster Wisdom.

### THE PHARMACY BILL

would in all probability have got through its Committee stage on Thursday of last week if it had not been for the honourable member for Camlachie. It was called on at four minutes after twelve, when Mr. Cross (from the Government side) at once moved to report progress. Dr. G. B. Clark (Liberal member for Caithness) asked if Mr. Cross would not withdraw his amendments. The Bill, he said, was a harmless one, which simply applied to members of the Pharmaceutical Society. Mr. Cross replied: "I am strongly of opinion that legislation regarding pharmacy should be all under one Act, and I object to proceeding with this Bill at this hour." The Bill was again down on Monday, but was not reached, and stands until Monday next.

### CAMLACHIE'S SAX AMEN'MENTS.

#### (An Imaginary Interview.)

A round man in a square hole is a bonnie sight to see,  
But I'm naither round nor square, man; I'm as cross as Cross  
can be,  
An' the Square Bill's no my wean, man; it comes frae your  
pharmacee,  
So I block it wi' amen'ments 'fore it gets to Committee.

A Currie, an' a Ewin', an' a Rutherford wha's Hill  
Cam' sooth to soop the Lobbie an' tee the little Bill;  
An' they thoct to sowther wi' me, but a bitter coatit pill  
Are Camlachie's sax amen'ments unto them an' theirs, man, still.

Clark, the doctor, tried to get me tae hand aff an' lat it pass;  
But I tell him tae tak' care o'm sel' an' no' his head tae fas',  
He'd enouch o' pharmacy afore whan he socht to fill wi' gas,  
Twa score o' druggists' shoppies brocht thegither by Douglas.

What care I though the Bill shud dee, a seedsman I'm by trade,  
An' to saw a pickle discord, or mak' a wee bit raid  
On thae fowkie's insek pushins is, ye ken, the Shirra said,  
"A new development" o't a'; so's the Progress I hae made.

The Bill it winna pass afore the grouse begin tae flee,  
Sax amen'ments o' Camlachie's are strong eouch ye'll see  
Tae stop the leegislation wheel. But, hooever that may be,  
I've brocht them tae their hunkers, ye can tell the C. & D.

### THE PETROLEUM COMMITTEE

Mr. Jesse Collings has been elected chairman of this committee. The late Mr. Mundella was the chairman last year.

### THE ISLINGTON ANALYST.

Mr. Duckworth, M.P., the Rochdale grocer, put his several times deferred question to the President of the Local Government Board on Friday of last week. Mr. Duckworth asked the President of the L.G.B. whether he was aware that, in the course of a fortnight, three separate analyses of the analyst of the Islington Vestry were proved to be inaccurate, when the samples dealt with were referred to Somerset House; and, whether the Local Government Board will take any steps to inquire into mistakes which so seriously affect the tradesmen against whom summonses were issued upon such mistaken certificates?

Mr. Chaplin replied as follows:—I have already taken steps to inquire into the cases referred to, and I find that the analyses by the public analyst of these cases did not accord with those made at the Government laboratory, and the cases were dismissed, the defendants being awarded costs. It would be impossible to go into the details of these cases as represented by the Vestry and the chief officer of the Government laboratory within the limits permissible in an answer to a question. Under the existing law the Court, in any case where proceedings are instituted in respect of alleged adulteration, can, on the application of either party, refer the sample to the officers of the Board of Inland Revenue, with a view to its being analysed and reported on by them, and in the cases in question the defendants had the benefit of this provision; but I have no authority to give any directions whatever in the matter. I understand that in one case there will be an appeal to the High Court.

"BARKER'S SHAVING-PAPER" has been put on the P.A.T.A. protected list by the manufacturers, Messrs. F. Barker & Son, Finsbury Park, N.



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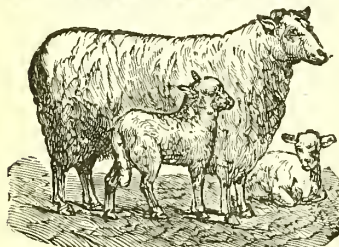
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AND THE

**NEW PHARMACOPŒIA.**

See Diary, 1898, pages 21, 22, 23 and 24.



**MIXTURE FOR COUGHS, ETC.**

We have lately had a correspondence with the Board of Inland Revenue with reference to a concession clearly stated in Alpe's "Handy-book of Medicine-stamp Duty," and, as we know, acted upon for many years, but now withdrawn.

Mr. Alpe stated (page 87) that "a preparation described merely by the name of the ailment that it is intended to cure is not considered to be liable to duty provided that the words used imply no further holding out or recommendation."

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No. 2 Pure CRUSHED LINSEED	14/ cwt	No. 1 Finest Light Pure PRECIPITATED CHALK	25/ cwt
BEST CLEANED LINSEED	15/ cwt	No. 2 Pure PRECIPITATED CHALK	21/ cwt
No. 1 Finest Pure FULLER'S EARTH (Light Colour)	15/ cwt	"WHITE EARTH" Specially prepared for Toilet purposes.	18/ cwt
No. 2 Pure FULLER'S EARTH	12/ cwt	Finest Pure TOILET OATMEAL, SPECIAL	3/ lb.
Pure LIQUORICE	10/ lb.	Best Pure ARROWROOT	9/ lb. in tins

\* CARRIAGE PAID TO Railway Stations within 200 miles of London (or allowance made for distances beyond) on a total weight of 112 lbs. and upwards of above articles. Smaller parcels delivered free on rail London at above prices.



Toothache-tincture, influenza-mixture, cough-lozenges, rheumatic-liniment were among a number of illustrations of such permitted titles quoted.

These and similar titles remain still undutiable; only we may remark in passing that such a title as toothache-cure, toothache-specific, or toothache-remedy (all of which it will be seen are quite different to toothache-tincture) is considered to involve a recommendation, and renders the medicine dutiable.

But Mr. Alpe went on to say that toothache-tincture, &c., being allowed, "the preparation is not considered to be liable if the name of the complaint follows instead of preceding the description of the medicine"; so tincture for toothache, mixture for influenza, lozenges for coughs, liniment for rheumatism on labels were equally non-labile; "nor," he added, "if two ailments are named, provided that they are of a similar nature and closely allied, as gout and rheumatic liniment, or liniment for gout and rheumatism."

A firm in the Midlands put up a certain "balsam for coughs and colds." They had the familiar letter from Somerset House stating that this description rendered the medicine dutiable. Alpe's statement was quoted in reply, but except that the Board did not insist on a penalty, their previous dictum was maintained. They were then asked whether the words "balsam for coughs" would be permitted on an unstamped bottle, to which they replied in the negative. The firm informed us of the correspondence, and we asked the Board to tell us definitely whether they had decided to modify their late interpretation of the law. The Board has had the matter under consideration for some time, but they now tell us that

after full consideration they have come to the conclusion, whatever may have been their practice in the past, that of the five descriptions set forth in your letter

1. Tincture for toothache
2. Gout and rheumatic liniment
3. Mixture for diarrhoea and bowel-complaints
4. Embrocation for sprains and bruises
5. Liniment for gout and rheumatism,

Nos. 1, 3, 4, and 5 involve liability to medicine-stamp duty, while No. 2 is treated as not being within the charge. The practice of the Board has been to allow such words to be used upon a label on a bottle of medicine sold unstamped as will be sufficient only to give a distinctive designation to the medicine. The Board cannot, therefore, sanction the use of such expressions as "mixture for coughs," &c., unless the preparations are properly stamped.

The reference number of the above letter is S 20181—1898, and the date March 19, 1898. Notification of this alteration will be inserted in all copies of Alpe's "Handy-book" sold in the future, and we will send a slip for insertion to any possessor of that book who will send us an addressed envelope with a halfpenny stamp.

## THE BRITISH PHARMACOPŒIA.

A NUMBER of wholesale druggists have written to us this year asking if there is any possibility of their obtaining early copies of the new British Pharmacopœia, and they have pointed out to us the disadvantages to them of not being represented on the committee of compilation, as they may be considerably behind those houses which are fortunate in having partners associated with the General Medical Council in this matter. Apart from this consideration, there is the fact that if wholesale houses are not aware until the Pharmacopœia is actually published what alterations have been made in it, and what new preparations are recognised, they will be considerably handicapped in supplying their customers. The matter has been laid before the Executive Committee of the General Medical Council, and we are able to state that, after fully considering the matter, the com-

mittee have resolved as soon as the book is printed, and some weeks before actual publication, to have in the offices of the Council, Oxford Street, W. (not before March 25), copies of the work for inspection by properly accredited representatives of detail, wholesale and manufacturing chemists. Application for this privilege should be made to the Secretary to the Council, Mr. H. E. Allen, LL.B., 299 Oxford Street, London, W., in the first instance by post. We may say that the Pharmacopœia will not be ready for retail sale until May—if then. The work is complete, and the final revision has been carried out, but the production of the book must wait the decision of the Treasury as to the price; this will likely take two or three weeks. Then, before the twenty thousand copies which have to be printed and bound are ready for sale, an order in Council must be obtained legalising the Pharmacopœia. We mention this so that wholesale houses as well as retail chemists may not be over-anxious about the matter, because ample time will be given between the dates of publication and of legalising the B.P. for everyone to get rid of preparations which are to become obsolete, and to get ready the new. Moreover, medical and pharmaceutical journals are, we have been told, to have advance copies of the work for review.

## INSECT-PESTS.

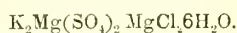
MISS E. A. ORMEROD, so well known as one of the best authorities on this subject, has just issued her twenty-first report on injurious insects (Simpkin, 1s. 6d.). It is a book which is of decided value to chemists, especially those living in agricultural districts, who, if not actually consulted about the insect-pests, are called upon to supply the necessary chemicals for exterminating them, and should be able to give an intelligent idea of the methods of using the various remedies. We have in this report, covering 1897, notes on thirty-six insects, and although during the year there was no special crop-attack spreading widely over the country, the infestations of orchard and fruit crops were unusually troublesome. Plum-trees were much attacked by the shot-borer beetle (*Nyctolus Sweseni*), large



MISS E. A. ORMEROD.

crops of strawberries were destroyed by ground-beetles (*Harpalus ruficornis* and *Pterostichus vulgaris*), and on black-currant bushes *Phytoptus ribis*, the currant-gall mite, was unusually active. We learn from the article on cockroaches that St. Bartholomew's Hospital has been infested with two separate species of these insects—the common cockroach and the German cockroach—each kind living quite apart, the German cockroaches eventually being driven out by the common variety or voluntarily migrated. It is with the remedies for insect-pests that chemists will be more concerned. Kerosene emulsion is frequently recommended, and as it is a somewhat difficult preparation to make except by methods well known to chemists, it should be a suitable article for retail trade. It is a preparation of paraffin, equally distributed by being mixed with soft soap and water. It is necessary that it should be made so that the emulsion

will not separate, as paraffin itself is harmful to foliage. Another thing recommended as a top-dressing in some cases is kainite, the supplying of which seems to be drifting into the hands of seedsmen. Kainite is a salt of variable composition found in Strassfurt saltworks—it is potassium magnesium sulphate combined with magnesium chloride, and is represented by the following formula:—



Although a somewhat "heavy" chemical, there is no reason why the supply should not come through chemists. Other chemicals used are sulphide of calcium, bisulphide of carbon, and sulphate of iron. In the case of tobacco preparations, it should be noted that Messrs. Whiffen, of Battersea, now turn out large quantities of nicotine, the Excise authorities allowing them to use duty-free tobacco for the purpose, thus putting English makers on equal footing with foreign competitors.

We would recommend chemists in agricultural districts to read this book; there is much useful information in it, and many suggestions of commercial value to them for the treatment of many kinds of insect-pests.

### THE STORY OF OUR CUSTOMS DUTIES.

THE very limited degree of wisdom with which the world is governed is vividly shown in the bulky report on the Customs tariff of the United Kingdom which has lately been prepared by Mr. T. J. Pittar, the head of the Statistical Department of the London Custom House, and published as a Government Blue-book. From the days of Queen Elizabeth to those of Mr. Chamberlain this country has been ready to fight anybody and everybody for a new market; and the very same statesmen who quarrelled with the French, the Dutch, the Spaniards, and the Portuguese for rights of trading seem to have sought by every means that ingenuity could devise to cripple trade when it wanted to come. The Customs records are quite amazing in this respect. The business of importation in the eighteenth century must have occasioned the merchant an amount of anxiety and uncertainty of which we can have no conception. For a century or more successive Governments had been adding a duty for one purpose, relieving it for another, modifying charges according to the ships the goods came in, allowing drawbacks on certain conditions, and regulating and re-regulating the tariff in such various methods that a competent authority in 1751 (quoted by Mr. Pittar) said: "If we consider the many exceptions and exceptions from exceptions, the many regulations and regulations of regulations, . . . we must conclude it impossible for any merchant in this country to be master of his business; . . . he must trust to those honest gentlemen called Custom House officers for the duties he is to pay upon importation and the drawbacks he is entitled to upon exportation. Can we wonder at the decay of our commerce under such circumstances? Should we not rather wonder that we had any left?"

There were in 1785 sixty-eight so-called "branches" of duty, and any one parcel might come under quite a series of these. Mr. Pittar gives what he describes as "a simple specimen." He supposes the importation of 2,000 ells of Russian linen, in which at the time under review a considerable business was done. That article was struck at by ten different revenue statutes piled one on the top of the other. The total Customs duties on this importation amounted to 69% 17s., made up of ten separate charges varying in amount from 2% to 30%. Mr. Pitt first tried to consolidate the Customs duties in 1787, but even his tariff, though it was a much simpler one than the nation had come to regard as in-

evitable, named 1,414 articles, and these were subject to different rates of duty according to whether they were brought to port in British or foreign ships. Costly wars soon broke out, and the Exchequer had recourse to the convenient Customs duties again and again, special percentages being added by various Acts to special articles. In 1801, for example, 1 cwt. of coffee, paid 1% 18s. 6d. duty by the consolidated tariff of 1787, 1s. 11d. by a Customs Act of 1797, another 1s. 11d. by a later Customs Act of the same year, and 3s. 4d. convoy duty (to pay for the protection granted by the Navy against pirates) by an Act of 1798. Other Consolidation Acts were passed in 1803, 1816, and 1823. Altogether in the first fifty-three years of George III.'s reign 1,300 Customs laws were passed, the majority of them, we may be sure, imposing fresh taxation.

The great free-trade Acts were passed in 1845 and 1846, and from then down to Mr. Gladstone's Budgets of 1853 and 1860 the work of freeing the tariff of hundreds of articles formerly subject to duty went on rapidly. The remission and reduction of duties were followed by a constantly expanding revenue, while naturally the business of importation and exportation, freed from the shackles which had hitherto bound it, increased at an enormous rate. At present the Customs tariff of this country contains only nine principal heads, and four of these—namely, spirits, tobacco, tea, and wine—yield nineteen-twentieths of the Customs revenue.

The term "Customs," according to Mr. Chisholm, was anciently used in an extensive sense for "customary" payments or dues of many kinds, whether regal, episcopal, or ecclesiastical, until in process of time it was restricted to the duties payable to the king, either upon the exportation or importation or carriage coast-wise of certain articles of commerce. Legislative authority for such dues cannot be traced back beyond the reign of Edward I., and it was only in the reign of Charles II. that the English Customs became of substantial importance. The common idea of making the foreigner pay your taxes has always been a popular one, and it still prevails in America, France, Germany, and other enlightened nations. Perhaps they are right and we are wrong; but certainly Mr. Pittar's report, which altogether fills 1,000 pages, tends to prove the wisdom of those statesmen who first saw and acted on the principle of allowing the freest possible opportunities for this nation to exchange products with other countries.

### ALCOHOLIC EXTRACTS.

THE Chemical Section of the London Chamber of Commerce has now discharged its duty in regard to the spirit laws. Our report of the meeting held on Monday shows that the section, speaking through the Chairman (Mr. Tyrer), recommends wholesale druggists to look after alcoholic extracts themselves; which is exactly what we have said, but the wholesale druggists could not move until the Chamber of Commerce dropped this part of the very large subject which they have been so earnestly and long considering. The ground is now, therefore, clear for movement, and as soon as the new "British Pharmacopœia" appears, the wholesale druggists can formulate their claim to the Treasury. We are in this matter dealing with home manufactures, which fail in price-competition with imported products because the latter are made under more advantageous conditions than obtain in this country. We have shown it is not so much that the prejudice lies in increased cost of drugs or of labour in preparing the extracts, as in the difference of cost of spirit in this country and in Germany. It may be well to recapitulate the factors in the matter, and, to take the least favourable case as an example—viz., comparison of



methyated spirit, the cheapest form procurable here, with the duty-free pure alcohol of the German manufacturer—we proceed to make, say, alcoholic extract of belladonna. From 100 lbs. of ground root we shall get 12 lbs. of extract, and we shall lose, at a very moderate computation, at least 5 gals. of spirit, costing at the present time 8s. 4d. The German maker will also lose 5 gals., but this will cost him only 3s. 4d., a difference of 5s. in his favour. Other things being equal, the 12 lbs. of alcoholic extract of belladonna will cost the German maker 5d. per lb. less than it costs the British maker, which means that the former can undersell the latter and make a larger profit. The home manufacturer is not, and the home Government should not be, content with a condition of things which permits such a result—the exclusion of the Britisher from his own markets. It is easier, we admit, to point to the anomaly than to remove it. Suggestions have been made that duty-free spirit might be permitted under certain safeguards as in Germany, and also that a countervailing duty on imported extracts would meet the case. The latter would no doubt be effective so far as regards home business, but to make the thing complete it would be necessary, according to Mr. E. A. Webb, to institute a drawback on exportation of such extracts. The arranging of countervailing duties should present no difficulties to those gentlemen who gave so freely of their experience to Somerset House on the occasion when drawback was granted on spirituous preparations, to remove disabilities similar to those under consideration. Having arranged a schedule of the extracts—no lengthy list—the amount of duty on the one hand and of drawback on the other might be made to correspond and to be dependant on the solubility of the extract in a definite proportion of spirit as used in its preparation. An objection to the suggestion of a drawback on exportation is that it can only in fairness apply to extracts upon which duty has been paid, either on importation or through the use of duty-paid spirit in this country. In any other circumstances a drawback would mean, in the eyes of the Treasury, bounty to home manufacturers, and we question if the Treasury has power to pay from the exchequer in respect to an article which contributes nothing to the country's coffers. Should this suggested drawback not be found practicable unless in regard to articles which have paid countervailing duty, there still remains a means of relieving the home manufacturer by giving him a cheaper system of denaturisation than with the comparatively expensive wood spirit, or means for manufacture in bond. To both of these means we have devoted attention in previous articles, and we need only now express the hope that the wholesale trade will take up the matter afresh, for we have every reason to believe that the Treasury and the Excise authorities are perfectly willing to relieve the trade from any real disability, however trivial, provided they have assurance that any concession will not be abused.

#### IF THERE HAD BEEN NO PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY!

THE President of the Pharmaceutical Society suggested to the Bristol pharmacists at their dinner last week, as a topic for chastening thought, the idea of a world of pharmacy and no Pharmaceutical Society. "What would have been the condition of pharmacists if there had been no Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain?" he asked. It was hardly considerate to thus cast a gloom over a festive party, and it does not appear that the President pursued the theme. But suppose we take our courage in both hands, and face the lugubrious retrospect. Perhaps there is some little bit of silver lining to the dark clouds. First we may point out that there would have been a Pharmacy Act whether there had

been a Society or not. That is certain. The regulation of the sale of poisons, and the registration and qualification of pharmacists was a project of Government after Government for many years before 1868, and was by no means the device of the Pharmaceutical Society. The Act would have been administered by a specially appointed Board under the Privy Council, or as a section of the General Medical Council's work, and probably in the latter way. We are not eager to bend our necks to the medical profession, who it is certain would have been the predominant partner in the business of government, but it is easy to see that the association of the professions of medicine and pharmacy would have brought with it many substantial advantages. We should have been what we often make believe we are—"an integral part of the medical profession," we should have had, as a matter of course, our due share in the production of the Pharmacopœia, and we should have been much nearer than we are towards the acquirement of the bulk of the dispensing practice of the country. We should have had societies certainly enough, after the style of the British Medical and the British Dental Associations, essentially trade-unions. Trade-unionism we are told is not practicable or compatible with the dignity of a society entrusted with administrative functions. And the worst of it is that while the Pharmaceutical Society cannot organise anything of the kind, its existence blocks the way of any society that could and would. Lastly, we should have had the men with us we have now. The President and Vice-President could have gone strolling about at provincial dinners as they do now, and we are disposed to think their audiences would not be less interested if they were forced to find some other subject than the well-worn one of the virtues of the Pharmaceutical Society to talk about.

#### MACLAGAN'S COCAINE TEST.

A GOOD deal has been written on the Continent lately regarding Mr. Henry MacLagan's cocaine test, which it may be remembered was originally communicated to the *American Druggist*, and was first mentioned in this country in the *C. & D.*, March 5, 1887, when corroborative experiments of our own assisted in establishing the utility of the test. Messrs. C. F. Böhringer & Sons, of Mannheim, have now admirably summed up the recent discussion by a paper in the *Pharm. Centralh.*, which replies to various points and establishes the utility of the test. There has been some doubt on the Continent as to the exact terms of the test, this being due to the confusion in the foreign mind of fluid and weight ounces. Mr. MacLagan described the test as follows:—

If about 1 gr. of the hydrochlorate of cocaine be dissolved in about 2 fl. oz. of water, 1 or 2 drops of water of ammonia added, and the sides or bottom of the containing vessel rubbed with a glass rod, well-marked striae will occur where the rod has touched, and shortly after flocks of precipitate will form and slowly subside, leaving the liquid clear and bright as at first. If the amorphous salt is present, even in moderately small proportions, no striae nor precipitate will form, and the liquor will remain milky for a long time, the surface having a more or less oily appearance.

Continental chemists have been in difficulty as to the proportions of hydrochlorate and water, and what strength of ammonia-water to use. Messrs. Böhringer rightly point out that the 10-per-cent. solution of ammonia was originally prescribed, and that the best results are obtained with 0.1 gramme of hydrochlorate, 85 c.c. of water, and 0.2 c.c. of the ammonia solution, or 1 + 850 + 2, while MacLagan's proportions were 1 + 910 + 2. In our experiments we used 1 + 440 + 1 with equally satisfactory results. The more important point of Messrs. Böhringer's communication is that

they report isotropylcocaine to be the "amorphous salt" referred to by MacLagan. When he formulated his test isotropylcocaine had not been discovered, and it is somewhat remarkable that Messrs. Böhringer have taken this cocaine derivative, added it to absolutely pure cocaine in definite quantities, and obtained results which corroborate MacLagan's general conclusions. The following are their data:—

Isotropylcocaine, per cent.		min.
1. 0.0	Crystalline ppt., and clear solution commencing in	1½
2. 0.1	" " " " " "	2½
3. 0.2	" " " " " "	5
4. 0.4	Amorphous " " " " " "	6
5. 0.6	" " " " " "	5
6. 0.8	" " " " " "	8
7. 1.0	Scarcely perceptible " " " " " "	10
8. 2.5	No precipitate until after ten minutes.	
9. 3.5	" " " " " "	
10. 4.0	Slightly opalescent.	
11. 5.0	Solution milky.	
12. 10.0	" strongly turbid.	

The last three tests yielded no precipitates. MacLagan observed that when the proportion of "amorphous salt" was about 4 per cent. a precipitate ceased to form, and the new experiments prove that that takes place with 3.6 per cent. of isotropylcocaine. It is worth remembering that isotropylcocaine is highly toxic, and this fact emphasises the importance of the test.

#### A STRANGE CONTRAST.

An excellent work is being carried on at Midland Hall, Fatchiffe, East London. Destitute men of all ages are there housed and fed—helped in their extreme need. During 1897 there were 115,000 admissions to this haven. By far the greater proportion of those seeking the benefits of the place are general labourers, but, says *To-day*, "several chemists are on the list, and more than one brewer."

#### £27,000 FOR A PHARMACY.

It is a long price, but it has been paid for the "Alte Apotheke" in Gelsenkirchen, Prussia. The value of the ground rent, premises, and stock was 6,500*l.*, the rest was for "goodwill." Ten years ago the pharmacy changed hands at 19,000*l.*, so that the proprietor has made a good thing of it, thanks to the "concessions" which a paternal Government gives to the disciples of Galen. Here in England a pharmacist has no chance like that unless he happens to buy a public-house.

#### TARTARIC AND CITRIC ACIDS.

Mr. L. de Koningh, F.C.S., writing to the *Chemical News* in regard to the preparation of lead-free ammonium salts of tartaric and citric acids, suggests the application of Egeling's process for the purification of the salts. To the solution of ammonium tartrate or citrate from lead and copper, which should be strongly alkaline, a little strong hydrogen sulphide is cautiously added until the colour does not get any darker; a little kaolin is then added, and the whole well stirred until it has combined with the sulphides. The liquid is now filtered, and should at once be used for the comparison-test. If the filtrate is yellowish, this may be remedied by agitating with purified animal charcoal. The filtrate should then once more be tested with hydrogen sulphide and, if necessary, be again shaken with kaolin. Mr. de Koningh doubts whether hydrogen sulphide really removes all the lead, but the solutions are pure enough for comparison.

#### UNQUALIFIED DISPENSERS.

The *Therapist* points out the inconsistency of the General Medical Council allowing medical men to employ unqualified dispensers when they are not to be allowed to have unqualified assistants. Our contemporary calls attention to the fact that care and accuracy in dispensing medicines is as essential

as accurate diagnosis, and hopes the Pharmaceutical Society will have a word to say on this important matter. On the subject of unqualified assistants, a lay paper says the recent action of the Medical Council has caused several of the discharged assistants to set up establishments in the vicinity of the surgeries of their old employers, and vend drugs, give prescriptions, dispense medicines, and visit patients, which, it is believed, they can do with impunity, as long as they do not commit the offence under the medical laws of pretending to be medical men. What with the Medical Council and the Pharmaceutical Society, the path these men tread must be very narrow indeed.

#### PRISON DISPENSERSHIPS.

The Prison Commissioners have just issued an order in regard to dispenserships in H.M. prisons to the effect that in future such position in the large prisons will be filled by the warders serving in the hospital, subject to their obtaining the Minor qualification of the Pharmaceutical Society. This makes no change in the qualification, as hitherto only chemists and druggists were eligible for the positions; but the status of prison compounders has been somewhat anomalous, the compounders always being liable to be called upon to do anything in the prison which the Governor may direct. This has been felt to be a grievance, and it is now remedied in draconic fashion by giving the compounders the nominal appointment of warder, and confining them to hospital duties rather than general work in the prisons. The more satisfactory part of the new regulation is that the legal qualification is retained inviolate. The Local Government Board appears to think that retired Army compounders and apothecaries' assistants are good enough for the poor; but the Prison Commissioners decline to entrust the lives of convicts to any but chemists and druggists. We presume that the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland will see to it that the Irish licence is recognised for Irish prisons.

#### PHOTOGRAPHIC POISONS.

The *British Journal of Photography* has for some time been making itself a laughing-stock to its readers in regard to its bias against the Pharmacy Act. Last week the question asked in the House of Commons about carbolic acid, and the reply that the Privy Council are shortly introducing a Bill on the subject, acted as the red-rag and called forth the following words of wisdom:—

Dealers in and users of chemicals of a poisonous nature should look out for this Bill in their own interests, for, if the Pharmaceutical Trades Union obtains further monopolies, the consumer must suffer in the price he will have to pay for his material. At one time one could buy "fly-papers" at the oil-shop for 6*d.* the dozen; now he has to pay 1*d.* each to the pharmaceutical chemist for the same brand. At this rate the amateur photographer instead of paying 1*s.* an oz. to his dealer for his pyro—and that is a thing the Society would like to have a monopoly in—would be charged by the druggist 2*s.* the oz. At the grocers' or oil-men's, patent medicines, bearing the Government stamp, can be obtained for from 9½*d.* to 10½*d.*, but, if they happen to contain the merest trace of one of the scheduled materials, one has to pay 1*s.* 1½*d.* to the pharmaceutical chemist, though the list-prices are the same.

The ludicrousness of these remarks becomes more apparent when it is borne in mind that at least two-thirds of the photographic trade is already in the hands of chemists. It makes one shudder to think what will happen to the *B. J. P.* when it realises that there is actually a Pharmacy Bill before the House at the present time. Anyhow, the Pharmaceutical Society should awake to the fact that Mr. Alexander Cross is not alone in his rancour against the Pharmacy Act and things pharmaceutical. We hardly think oil-shop "fly-papers" would be strong enough to catch the "bee in the bonnet" which our contemporary is suffering from.

GERMAN DENATURED SPIRIT contains pyridine and smells badly when it is burnt. A little (2 per cent. or more) formalin overcomes this.



## Advertising Ideas.

HOWARDS & SONS' supplement to the colossal number of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST of January 29 is, notwithstanding its advertising features, a dignified contribution of great historical interest. It marks the end of the first century of the firm's existence. The history of quinine is an important feature of the contribution, and it is interesting to note that the manufacture of this chemical was at first (about 1827) considered of such insignificant importance that the exact date when the first few lots were made has been lost "though a thousand ounces then struck the imagination more than the million and a half ounces contained in the bark offered in one sale in Amsterdam the other day."—*American Journal of Pharmacy*.

AN AUSTRALIAN ALMANAC.—A London correspondent sends for our admiration an 1898 almanac issued by a cousin of his. It appears to be printed in Melbourne, and contains a larger proportion than usual of appropriate articles, such as notes on the hair, emergencies, the sick-room, colds, &c. Some colotype pictures of scenery, most of them, curiously enough, of Sydney sights, are stitched up with the book. Among the chemist's own advertisements we notice a "sure cure for neuralgia" at 1s., and a "neuralgia-mixture" at 2s. 6d. The first is described as "a speedy, certain, and safe cure," the latter as "a safe and reliable remedy." But why should a sufferer expend the extra 1s. 6d. if he can be so sure of getting cured for 1s.? Another little criticism which we venture to offer is that "a speedy, certain, and safe cure" does not run off the tongue so easily as "a speedy, safe, and certain cure."

MESSRS. PARKER & CROSS, of Scarborough, send us a price-list which includes a very complete list of photographic apparatus and chemicals. They also give a list of objects of interest in Scarborough and district suitable for the camera, and in other ways show themselves ready to provide for the amateur. Elsewhere in the list we notice a page of "preparations specially recommended," headed thus: "There are so many patent medicines of very little value that Messrs. Parker have themselves prepared a few preparations, all of which are perfectly reliable and harmless, and which they most strongly recommend." The idea of these good men being driven to the preparation of a few specialities out of pity for customers who might otherwise be deluded strikes us a little thin even for the amiable and intelligent public.

### IMPROVING THE SPRING-CLEANING MISERY.

Messrs. Boots have instituted a spring-cleaning competition. They offer prizes of 2l. each for the best letter of twenty lines and for the best four verses describing a spring cleaning. Each competitor must hold a receipt for something used for spring cleaning purchased at one of the firm's shops, and letters and verses are to be sent to "Mr. Spring. Cleaner, care of Boots, cash chemists, Nottingham."

### A MOVING ANNOUNCEMENT.

Mr. Standing, Market Street, Darwen, announces his removal by an advertisement in the local paper, headed with the block of a cat coming out of a bag, and the words, "Now the cat is out of the bag, and Standing, the chemist, has emerged from the antiquated shop, 10 Market Street, and taken a hop, skip, and a jump right across the way to the large modern premises at the corner of Arch Street." This is hardly a dignified way of announcing the change, but probably some customers like the style.

A WINE-LICENCE has been granted to Parke's Drug-stores (Limited) for their branch at 316 High Road, Kilburn.

SOME NEW DRUGS were spoken of by Mr. P. Siedler at the January meeting of the German Pharmaceutical Society. Kola-nut, coffee, indiarubber, a balsam, cinchona-bark, and andropogon oil from Sao Thome (British West Africa), gum arabic from German West Africa, and Australian sandarac were the principal things. They are described in the first part of this year's "Proceedings" of the Society.

## Festivities and Entertainments.

### TWO LORD MAYORS AT A CHEMISTS' DINNER.

The Liverpool Chemists have gone one better than their Manchester neighbours by getting two Lord Mayors to honour the annual banquet of the Chemists' Association, which was held at the Adelphi Hotel on March 17. Mr. John Bain, President of the Association, occupied the chair; and the company numbered about 120, and included the Lord Mayor of Liverpool (Alderman John Houlding), the Lord Mayor of Manchester (Alderman R. Gibson), the Mayor of Bootle (Dr. McMurray), Professors Carter, Harvey Gibson, and Boyce, Drs. Carthew, Bronnigan, Davey, Moore, and Symes, Councillor A. H. Samuel, Messrs. Ed. Evans, jun., E. N. Evans, J. H. Evans, Harold Webb, H. Jackson, C. Jackson, R. C. Cowley, T. F. Abraham, A. S. Buck, &c.

The Lord Mayors and the Mayor present were toasted in a group. The Lord Mayor of Liverpool, in responding, said he considered the Act which required chemists to pass an examination was one of the finest measures that had ever been introduced. He knew people who had no qualification sometimes opened druggists' shops, and he had often wondered how they could carry on their work properly without being duly trained and educated.

The Lord Mayor of Manchester opened his response by a humorous reference to the port of Manchester as a competitor with that of Liverpool. Turning to pharmaceutical topics, he referred to certain reflections which had been cast upon him by the editor of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST. He thought the editor of that journal must be a young man, for, as everybody knew, young men knew more than those of greater experience and riper years. (Laughter.) On a former occasion he (Alderman Gibson) had declared that the social status of the chemist fifty years ago was no better than that of the grocer, the baker, or the candlestick-maker—simply that, and nothing more. This editor, in his wisdom, commenting on his remarks, said: "It is not quite fair of the Lord Mayor of Manchester to say that such men as we have alluded to were only on a level with the baker, the grocer, and the candlestick-maker." Of course, there were exceptions then as there are exceptions now. He was speaking of the great mass of the chemists of the country, whose social status was nothing like what it is now. The editor then proceeded to make the crushing statement regarding himself: "But he made his fortune by leaving the drug-trade, not by sticking to it." He would like to say, however, that the remarks which gave rise to this criticism were to the effect that he had been educated in the drug-trade, and was altogether indebted to that calling for his training. He never meant to say that the retail trade was superior to anything else in the world, but he intended to say, and he would repeat, that in his opinion there was no business which gave a man so much general information, and which qualified him so well for any position in life and for the higher professions, better than the drug-trade, and if he had a hundred sons he would send them all to learn it and make them pass the examinations provided. Conditions had changed in the drug-trade, no doubt, but they had generally changed for the better. With a fit appreciation of economy few men could succeed better than chemists. He did not know a trade in which capital yielded better returns, and it qualified a man for any position, except, perhaps, that of a bishop.

The Mayor of Bootle, in a racy speech, responded to the toast; and concluded by proposing "The Liverpool Chemists' Association," coupling with it the name of the general secretary, Mr. T. H. Wardleworth, who, in replying, read telegrams from the North Staffordshire Chemists' Association sending hearty greetings, and from the President of the Pharmaceutical Society. The Liverpool Association, Mr. Wardleworth said, had earned a position for itself during the past forty-nine years, and it was gratifying to note how its work was appreciated by the professional journals. He urged the members to make the coming session, which would be the jubilee of the Association, one worthy of its past in every way.

Professor Harvey Gibson proposed "The Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain," and commented on its educational

work. Mr. Rymer Young and Dr. Paul responded. The record of the good works of the Society which these speakers gave proved sufficiently lengthy to crowd out of the programme the toast of "The Chemical and Drug Trade."

Songs and instrumental music were contributed during the evening by the Lyric Glee Singers.

#### THE NORTH STAFFS CHEMISTS DINE.

The North Staffs Chemists' and Druggists' Association met on March 17, at the Copeland Arms Hotel, Stoke-on-Trent, to put through their reports, elect their officers, and dine. The reports were considered satisfactory, and the officers were all re-elected, namely: Mr. J. Averill President; Mr. F. Adams and Mr. J. W. Moore Vice-Presidents; Mr. Edmund Jones Hon. Secretary; and Mr. Weston Poole Treasurer.

Mr. Averill presided at the dinner, and among the guests were Mr. G. S. Woolley, President of the Manchester Association, and Mr. W. G. Cross, J.P., Shrewsbury.

A letter was read from Mr. W. Hills, President of the Pharmaceutical Society, regretting his inability to be present owing to work involved in introducing the Pharmacy Bill into Parliament.

The toast of "The Pharmaceutical Society" was proposed by Mr. J. W. Moore. He sympathised with the policy of the raising of the standard of the examinations with the view of raising the status of the trade; but in districts like their own, where the trade was a general one and the higher branch so little in demand, he questioned if the results would be so beneficial as in some other localities. The Bill before Parliament did not contain all he wished, but it was a step towards further progress.

Mr. Cross, in replying, claimed that the Pharmaceutical Society possessed the best features of the old guilds. It was looked up to by all the pharmaceutical world of Great Britain and the colonies. Good progress had already been made with the Pharmacy Bill, and there was now every likelihood of its becoming law. Two M.P.'s—Mr. Moreton and Dr. Tanner—had supported the Bill with great skill and tact, and Mr. Hill deserved thanks for the way he had worked in getting the measure introduced. Mr. Weston Poole proposed "The Medical Profession," for which Dr. Moody responded. At the conclusion of a friendly speech Dr. Moody exhibited a new oro-nasal respirator, which, in view of the lead-poisoning question in the Potteries, was examined with much interest.

Mr. Woolley, in submitting "The North Staffs Chemists' Association," said he was a firm believer in associations, and had worked in connection with the Manchester Association for over forty years. During that time they had not met with the success they could have hoped for, but he thought they could claim to have done good work. He noticed that they had the same difficulty to contend with in North Staffs as had been experienced in Manchester: that was in getting members to come to evening meetings. In Manchester they had had to introduce a rule adding a smoking-concert to the paper, and not admitting members to the concert unless they had heard the paper. Mr. Woolley went on to commend the Pharmacy Bill, and to dispute the allegation that it was nothing but a Bill for acquiring guineas. The Council was actuated by something far higher than that—by something that could not be measured by *£ s. d.* A solid society was what they wanted to get so that concerted action could be taken, and some good done for all of them. Mr. Woolley also referred to the proposed Bill to regulate the sale of carbolic acid, and said every association in the country ought to work to get a proper Bill passed on the subject.

The President and Mr. Edmund Jones, the Honorary Secretary, replied to the toast; and Mr. T. C. Cornwall suggested that a congratulatory telegram should be sent to the Liverpool Association, who were holding their annual dinner that evening. The suggestion was approved, and the President wired the following message:—"Hearty greetings from N. S. Chemists' Association, and regret the loss sustained through the death of mutual and respected friend, Mr. Conroy, who was present at our last annual dinner."

Mr. Cross responded to the toast.

"The P.A.T.A." was proposed by the Secretary, and replied for by Mr. Cornwall.

#### DANCING AT NEWCASTLE.

The students of the North of England School of Pharmacy held their third annual assembly on March 16 at the Grand Assembly Rooms, Barras Bridge, Newcastle, Mr. James Whittle Morpeth presiding over a large gathering of both sexes. The proceedings opened with the presentation of an illuminated address to Mr. G. F. Merson, Ph.C., F.C.S., who has resigned his post as principal of the school. A gift of a magnificent onyx marble drawing-room clock and side ornaments, suitably inscribed, was at the same time made to Mr. and Mrs. Merson. The presentations were made by Mr. N. D. Pringle, who, as a past student, bore testimony to the kindly assistance he and others had received at Mr. Merson's hands while studying under him. Mr. Merson, in a brief reply, acknowledged the gifts and expressed his appreciation of the good feeling which had prompted them. Thanks to the Chairman were proposed by Mr. F. R. Dudderidge, now principal of the school, and seconded by Mr. T. Maltby Clague.

The company then proceeded to the ball-room, where dancing was engaged in till the early hours of the morning. Messrs. Hepplewhite, Whittle, and W. Wilkinson acting as M.C.'s. To the attention and tact of these gentlemen the success of the evening was in a great measure due, as also to the kindness of patrons, among whom were Messrs. Bleasdale (Limited), Blondeau et Cie., Burroughs, Wellcome & Co., Evans, Sons & Co., Ismay & Sons, John Mackay & Co., Oldfield, Pattison & Co., Terry & Sons (Limited), and Wilkinson & Simpson (Limited).

#### AMONGST THE SIX-PER-CENTS.

The managers and officers of Parke's Drug-stores (Limited) dined together in the Trocadero Restaurant, Piccadilly Circus, W., on Monday evening. About forty were present, and from beginning to end it was a pleasant gathering, for had not "mine host" served an excellent dinner, and is not P.D.S.L. prosperous? Our diner-out testifies to the former, and as to the latter, Mr. John Murison, managing director, in replying for "The Company," displayed a succession of store birth-certificates which he is proud of. The first-born store was Brixton, February 14, 1891; in the same year came Clapham; in the year after, Peckham; in 1894 four branches were opened; the same in 1895, but one was closed—Princes Street, W., which rose, phoenix-like further west and heralded the birth of five in 1895; last year came Brondesbury, and this year Forest Gate, where a branch was opened on March 5, and some 4,000 customers were served on the opening day—altogether seventeen stores, doing well, and more are coming, while the dividend remains at 6 per cent., and there is plenty surplus after that. Mr. Murison gave out these details in a way that felt like driving nails home, and his audience punctuated the raps with cheers. Mr. Percy Warnford-Davis, a most eloquent chairman, followed with "The Managers and Officers" in a speech wherein he made no bones of the fact that the board of directors were useless without good managers for the stores. To this Messrs. F. Couper and T. O. Toynson Hicks replied; and, after Mr. Andrew Chatto had spoken for "The Board of Directors," and Mr. J. C. Emslie, secretary to the company, had toasted the chairman in a witty speech, Mr. John Lorimer sang a Scotch song, and the company sang "Auld Lang Syne." Then home, with recollections of the good entertainment, in which Mr. A. Gordon's stump oration, Mr. J. F. Fuerst's "Big Ben," and Mr. Arthur S. Tomlin's original musical sketch stand out with distinction.

#### PHARMACEUTICAL CRICKETERS SMOKE.

The members of Messrs. Burgoyne, Burbidges & Co.'s cricket club had an excellent smoker at the Guildhall Tavern, Gresham Street, on March 18, Mr. H. R. Arnold presiding over a large and enthusiastic audience. The vice-chair was occupied by Mr. F. Allen, and the musical programme was of a very enjoyable character throughout. The *pièce de résistance* of the evening, however, was the appropriate "O, Tatcho," by Mr. Harry Randall, the chorus of which was caught up by the company and vigorously sung. Mr. Charles King, "the English Fregoli," also gave a very clever quick-change sketch, and Madame Louise Lytton, Miss Mary Clare, and Miss Florence Hernan also delighted the company.



## CHEMICO-COMICAL.

The Nottingham Section of the Society of Chemical Industry gave a parting dinner to Professor Clowes on Saturday night last, to congratulate him on his appointment as chemist to the London County Council. The dinner was held at the George Hotel, Nottingham, Sir John Turney presided, and the company was gathered from Nottingham, Derby, Burton-on-Trent, Leicester, and other places. It was a Burton man—Mr. F. E. Lott—who sang the following song during the evening:—

"WATER."

*Musical Formula*—"Not for Joe!"

We indulge in beer and stout, and thus our wisdom show,  
For chemists doubt express about potable  $H_2O$ .  
Erring mortals every day drink a pint or so,  
And whether pure or full of ur—ea they do not know.

*Chorus.*

Oh dear, no!  $H_2O$ ! Don't disclose it; nobody knows if  
 $H_2O$ ,  $H_2O$  is fit for human drink or no.

A learned chemic gentleman once boiled a pint away,  
And from the residue, he says, he made ammonia.  
Nitrogen in water does this gaseous compound show;  
We get, you see, some  $NH_3$  from the N in the  $H_2O$ .

*Chorus.*

Here's a go! in  $H_2O$ ! Who'd suppose it? Nobody knows if  
 $H_2O$ ,  $H_2O$  is fit for human drink or no.

On Thursday evenings oft I hear Chapman, Wanklyn, and Co.  
Their views explain on finding N in a litre of  $H_2O$ .  
Determinations very new these wise young chemists show,  
And to analyse say they've found a way which Frankland doesn't know.

*Chorus.*

Oh dear, no!  $H_2O$ ! Boiling shows if Frankland knows it.  
 $H_2O$ ,  $H_2O$  can't be analysed in his way—oh dear, no!

With alkaline permanganate they make their water warm,  
And then can tell the albumin to the tenth of a milligramme.  
They find putrescent substances, and let the nitrates go;  
And none but they know how, they say, to analyse  $H_2O$ .

*Chorus.*

Oh dear, no!  $H_2O$ ! They analyse it; no one else knows it.  
 $H_2O$ ,  $H_2O$  can't be analysed by everybody; oh dear, no!

Beware, then, of albuminoid, ammonia, and urea.  
With good anhydrous drink provide us, and let others sing of beer.  
Let theory with practice join, and this great maxim know:  
How blest is he who ne'er consents to drink any  $H_2O$ !

*Chorus.*

Oh dear, no!  $H_2O$ ! Not if we knows it, don't suppose it.  
 $H_2O$ ?  $H_2O$ ? We don't drink it; oh dear, no!

J. P. BEALE.

Dr. Clowes, in the course of his speech, related with pardonable pride how Lord Playfair had once described him as his grand-student. Asking the purport of the joke, Lord Playfair said, "Why, Frankland was your teacher, and I taught him, so you are my grand-student."

## Marriages.

**BLOMFIELD—POLL.**—On March 16, at the Lewisham Congregational Church, by the Rev. J. Morlais Jones, Francis H Blomfield, chemist, of Erith, to Louisa E. Poll, only daughter of the late Isaac Poll, of Sydenham.

**CLARKSON—DODGE.**—On March 23, at Union Street, Church, Torquay, by the Rev. W. E. Rees, assisted by the Rev. N. W. Thomlinson, Mr. Newton Clarkson, chemist, of Richmond, Yorks, to Miss Edith Lizzie, eldest daughter of the late Rev. S. R. Dodge, of Manchester.

**REED—HOLMAN.**—At the Parish Church, Holsworthy, on March 8, Mr. John Reed, chemist and druggist, Plymouth, to Frances Amelia, eldest daughter of Mr. W. J. Holman, Holsworthy.

## Deaths.

**EDDEN.**—At Birmingham on Monday, an inquest was held on the body of Edwin Allison Edden, a retired wholesale druggist, of 68 Hagley Road. Mr. Edden, who was 51 years of age, was subject to attacks of giddiness and epilepsy, and on Saturday, March 19, he fell downstairs at his residence, and sustained an injury to his brain from which he died on the following day.

**KERSEY.**—Joshua Edmund Kersey, chemist and druggist, late of 98 Weedington Road, Kentish Town, and 67 Stratford Road, Plaistow, E., passed away peacefully at the above address on March 21, after a long and painful illness. Born June 23, 1827, Mr. Kersey was for many years dispenser to the Royal Chest Hospital, City Road, and he served during the Crimean war as a dispenser of medicines under the medical staff. He was first employed in this capacity at Scutari in May, 1854. Then he was moved to the General Hospital at Varna, and from thence he went to the Crimea, having charge of the medical stores for the expedition. He was dispenser at Balaclava for some months, and was sent to Kertch in charge of the medical stores, which accompanied that expedition; afterwards to Kinburn in a similar capacity, and then he came back to Balaclava, where he remained till the end of the war.

**KNOCK.**—On March 10, at Northampton, Mr. W. T. Norman Knock, M.P.S., R.D.S. Deceased, who acted as dispenser at the Medical Institute, died from consumption. He formerly resided at Leicester.

**NAPIER.**—At Ipswich, on March 17, Mr. James Napier Ipswich borough and Suffolk county analyst, and chemist of the Ipswich Technical Schools.

**SNOOK.**—On March 19, at his residence, 13 Hanover Terrace, Regent's Park, Mr. John Joseph Snook, chemist and druggist. Aged 50. Mr. Snook had been since 1873 the proprietor of the English and foreign business of Wilcox & Co., which had existed for about fifty years in Oxford Street, at the corner of Argyle Street, and of which premises he was dispossessed two years ago by the Central London Railway Company, who are placing their Oxford Circus station on the site. A fortnight ago Mr. Snook seemed to



be in the best of health. He was struck by influenza, pneumonia supervened, and the fatal result which has so frequently ensued occurred in his case. He was a man of great business ability, and of an enterprising disposition which was tempered by sound judgment. For two or three years before the Franco-German war broke out he was an assistant

with Messrs. Roberts & Co., of the Place Vendome, Paris. He stayed in Paris all through the siege, and took the privations which he had to undergo in the same philosophically undisturbed manner as he accepted his prosperity of later years. When the weary winter was ending and the Communists seized the city, Mr. Snook was one of the promising-looking recruits whom they pressed into their service. They laid hold of him in the street, provided him with a gun, and gave him the alternative of shooting or being shot. He was told off to one of the barricades, and had to assist in resisting the attack of the Versailles soldiery. After three hours of a soldier's life, however, Mr. Snook took an opportunity which presented itself while his comrades were busy looking out for their own safety of retiring into private life. Returning to England, Mr. Snook served another year or two as an assistant, and then with his savings and some borrowed capital he bought Wilcox's business. This he developed to a remarkable extent by working with it certain continental agencies. Mariani's wine was the principal of these; Midy's santal-wood oil, Joy's cigarettes, Grimault's and Rigaud's specialities were among the preparations for which he was agent. He also assisted in working the carbolic smoke-ball, and became particularly well known in the trade by the action which the Apollinaris Company took against him some years ago in reference to Hunyadi Janos water. Mr. Snook's agents on the Continent had enabled him to obtain a sufficient supply of Hunyadi Janos water to sell it here at a lower price than the Apollinaris Company were selling it, and the secret of his sources of supply was so well kept that neither the Hungarian proprietors nor the British agents were able to stop him. Meanwhile Mr. Snook had bought the businesses of Jozeau in the Haymarket and of Jabez Munro in Regent Street, and he combined all these into a company, entitled Foreign Chemists (Limited), retaining for himself the bulk of the capital and placing a competent manager in charge of each establishment. When the Oxford Street premises were taken by the railway company, Mr. Snook was awarded the sum of 11,800/ compensation, though he claimed something over 20,000/ on the ground that his retail business there would be destroyed and the wholesale much injured. He averred that he could not get suitable premises anywhere near his old ones in Oxford Street, and, as a matter of fact, he had to remove his agencies to Mortimer Street, and to discontinue his Oxford Street retail business altogether. Mr. Snook was an extremely popular man in the trade, and was always ready to be of service to others. He leaves a widow, a son and daughter, and a large circle of friends to mourn his loss.

**STREATER.**—On March 9, Mr. J. H. Streater, chemist and druggist, 3 Sloane Street, Knightsbridge, S.W.

**TAYLOR.**—At Philadelphia City, on February 28, Mr. Alfred Brown Taylor, pharmacist. Aged 74. The deceased gentleman was one of the leading pharmacists of the United States. He graduated from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy in 1844, and afterwards took a B.A. degree at the

University. It was not until 1860 that he commenced business for himself in Philadelphia, and he remained at the counter until 1887, when he began to devote himself to literary and scientific work exclusively, acting for Professor Remington as private secretary. He was one of the twelve who founded the American Pharmaceutical Association in 1852, was its first treasurer, served as president in 1890, and had been on every committee for the revision of the United

States Pharmacopoeia since 1850. In the last connection he did much good work, especially in regard to weights and measures. His was the idea of using glycerine in fluid extracts, and it was he who first, in 1852, recommended cocoa-butter as a basis for suppositories. An amiable man, a cultured pharmacist, and a clever scholar has been lost to American pharmacy through the death of this veteran.



#### Notice to Retail Buyers.

*It should be remembered that the quotations in this section are invariably the lowest net cash prices actually paid for large quantities in bulk, and, for crude drugs, without charges.*

42 CANNON STREET, E.C., March 24.

**BUSINESS** is still quiet, and there are comparatively few changes to report. There is a good deal of uncertainty regarding quinine, and the iodine-market is preëmitating towards a conclusion with the recalcitrant producer. Cod-liver oil (reported upon on page 519) still moves upwards with most sellers, but buying is not voluminous. A few drugs have been moving off at old rates. The following are the more notable changes of the week:—

Higher	Firmer	Lower
Acid, citric	Acetone	Aniseed, Russian
Ginger, Jamaica	Buchu	Cocaine
Isinglass (Penang)	Insect-flowers	Ginger, Cochinn
Kousso	Oil, eucalyptus	(rough)
Menthol	Saffron	Cloves
Oil, cod-liver	Salicin	Oil, castor (French)
Oil, juniper	Thymol	Oil, lemon
		Oil, star-anise
		Pepper, Singapore

A report of the meeting of the Chemical Section of the London Chamber of Commerce, at which several matters pertaining to the wholesale trade were discussed, appears on page 521.

#### CABLEGRAMS.

**BERGEN, March 24, 11.10 A.M.**—There is much anxiety here in regard to the Lofoten fishing, and the opinion prevails that it is a failure. The catch of fish at all quarters up to date is 16,095,000, as compared with 22,794,000 last year, estimated to yield 10,950 barrels of oil against 13,340 barrels. The market is uneasy, and prices are rising. Good medicinal oil is quoted to-day 72s. per barrel, f.o.b.

**HAMBURG, March 24, 11.56 A.M.**—Agar-agar is advancing, to-day's quotation being 285m. per 100 kilos. Camphor quiet at 240m. per kilo. Turpentine easier.

**NEW YORK, March 24, 2.44 P.M.**—HIGH oil of peppermint is selling at \$1.15 per lb., and jalap is offered at 9½c. to 11c. per lb., but is somewhat neglected. Mexican sarsaparilla has advanced to 6c. per lb. Spermaceti weak, at 27c. per lb. so is balsam tolu, which has sold at 35c., and there are cheaper lots. Senega is also lower; sales have been made at 22½c. per lb. Sassafras-bark is 6c. per lb.

During the quarter ending on December 31, 1897, the Excise Department paid drawback on 19,021 gals. of proof spirits exported in tinctures and medicinal spirits, as compared with 17,673 gals. in the corresponding quarter of the preceding year—an increase of 1,348 gals. For the three quarters of the current financial year the quantity of spirit on which drawback has been paid amounts to 51,015 proof gals., an increase of no less than 7,723 gals. over the same period in the preceding year. There can be no doubt that the figures



for the year ending on March 31 will be the largest of any of the ten years since the concession made by the Treasury.

We have received this week from an independent manufacturer in Java a sample of quinine-sulphate made by himself. He says it contains "less than 1 per cent. of cinchonidine." So far as the absence of alkaloids other than quinine is concerned we find that the sample is good, and passes the ammonia-test; but the salt has in bulk a slightly yellowish tinge, although less so than another Java quinine, which was received here in January. We have submitted a portion of the sample to a well-known expert, who reports:—"It is evidently a very imperfectly refined product from a Ledgeriana bark. It might pass as 'unbleached quinine,' but is certainly not of 'good commercial quality.'" Apparently, Java manufacturers have yet to learn the trick of how to make the sulphate absolutely white, and light as to density.

A considerable quantity of fenugreek-seed is imported from Morocco, Egypt, Syria, and Bombay, but only a small proportion is used by chemists and druggists and spice-dealers. The bulk is bought by cattle-spice manufacturers, and their orders are generally for 5 or 10 tons, and sometimes for much larger quantities. The last two crops in Morocco have been very small, and the price has risen during that period from 7s. to 12s. 6d. per cwt. There is no doubt the rise would have been much greater had it not been for the supplies of old seed which were brought to light from all parts of the Mediterranean coasts by the enhanced value of the article. But these stocks appear now to be exhausted, and with only about 15 tons in our warehouses we have to await the arrival of the new crops. The weather-reports from Morocco are favourable, and as fenugreek is an early crop, we may expect (with the present high price) a good supply from that country in June. It is also likely that a fair quantity will be ready for shipment from Bombay next May. In the meantime, however, the quantity immediately available is comparatively small.

Adulteration of this oil continues. Referring to the article by Mr. J. C. Umney in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST of December 18, 1897, a German firm of distillers confirm the observations therein recorded, and state that three kinds of oil may be met with in the market—(a) natural lemongrass oil, sp. gr. 0.9041, optical rotation  $-318^{\circ}$ , and solubility in 70-per-cent. alcohol 1 in 3; (b) oil deprived of citral, sp. gr. 0.9102, which is insoluble in 70-per-cent. alcohol, and, being heavier than that solvent, sinks in it; (c) lemongrass oil adulterated with oil of lemon, sp. gr. 0.8885, optical rotation  $+1820^{\circ}$ , insoluble in and swims upon 70-per-cent. alcohol. We also learn that *Andropogon citratus* D.C., the plant from which lemongrass oil is distilled, is now grown at St. Thomas in Portuguese West Africa, and the oil distilled from it agrees in physical characteristics with East Indian oil, but it is optically inactive. In our report of March 5 we mentioned the importation by Mr. Schlesinger of Tonkin verbenia oil. This has now been chemically examined, and found to contain 70 per cent. of citral.

ACETONE.—Very firm, in consequence of large Government contracts being made. From 57l. to 62l. per ton is now asked.

ACID, BENZOIC.—The current quotation for 1,000-oz. lots is 3½d. per oz. and 3½d. in smaller quantities.

ACID, CARBOIC.—Rather easier. Crystals on the spot are now offered at 6½d. per lb. for 39° to 40° C.; 34° to 35° C., 6½d. Cresylic, 95-per-cent., 1s. per gal. Crude, 60-per-cent., 1s. 11d. to 2s., and 75-per-cent., 2s. 6d. per gal.

ACID, CITRIC.—The price now quoted is 1s. 0½d. per lb. for English crystals, and 1s. 0½d. per lb., "c.i.f.," for foreign. Concentrated lemon-juice is firm at 11l. 12s. 6d., f.o.b. Messina, but the export demand from there is quiet.

ACID, TARTARIC.—Foreign crystals remain at 1s. 0½d. to

1s. 0¾d. per lb., and English at 1s. 1d. per lb. spot. Makers will not sell for forward delivery and the market closes, as it has remained all the week, firm.

ALON.—American make is obtainable on the spot at 2s. to 2s. 6d. per lb., according to quantity.

ANISEED.—Russian of 1897 crop is offered at 23s. per cwt., and Alicante 28s. "c.i.f."

ANISEED (STAR).—The Chinese market is quiet. The stock at Hong-Kong (some 3-400 piculs) is firmly held at \$57 to \$60.

ANTIMONIAL COMPOUNDS.—Crocus, 98 per cent., is quoted at 32s. per cwt. for lump and 35s. for powder. Black sulphide, 26s. per cwt., and golden sulphuret, 11d. per lb. Oxide, 32s. 6d. per cwt. Tartar emetic: German crystals, 9½d. per lb.; ditto powder, 9¾d.

ARSENIC is dull of sale, at 21l. 10s. to 22l. per ton for white powder.

BELLADONNA-ROOT.—German root remains in small supply, at 40s. to 41s., c.i.f., at which prices business has been done this week.

BENZON.—From January 1 to December 31 the total shipments of benzoin from the port of Padang amounted to in—

1897	1896	1895	1894	1893
Piculs	Piculs	Piculs	Piculs	Piculs
5,156	7,392	7,776	7,398	6,011

The 1897 shipments included 136 piculs direct to London, 4,716 Java, 130 Holland, 28 United States, &c.

BISMUTH SALTS are unchanged, at 4s. 10d. per lb. for subnitrate, 7s. 4d. for oxide, and 5s. for metal, in lots of 5 cwt.

BLEACHING-POWDER has been in more active request lately at 6l. 10s. per ton on the spot.

BUCHU.—In fair inquiry, but without business. Slightly higher prices than those which prevailed at the auction are asked—viz., 5d. for good green leaf, but less might be taken.

CAMPOR, CRUDE.—Very quiet. For Chinese 87s. 6d. to 89s. per cwt., c.i.f., is asked, and 92s. 6d. for Japanese. China advices, dated February 19, report a quiet market, at \$45.50 to \$45.75. The arrivals at Hong-Kong since January 27 amount to 1,247 cases; shipments, 487 cases; sales, 1,100 cases; and stock, 7,500 cases. The total exports to the Continent from January 1 were 1,527 boxes; to the United Kingdom, nil.

CAMPOR, REFINED.—English sublimers report a firm market, at unaltered prices. The same applies to the foreign refined camphor.

CANTHARIDES.—Russian flies are offered at 1s. 7d. to 1s. 8d. per lb., c.i.f. The stock of Chinese flies at Hong-Kong is estimated at 20 piculs.

CASCARA SAGRADA.—The current quotation is from 18s. to 18s. 6d. per cwt., though one holder will not sell under 20s. for old bark.

CINCHONA.—Included in the drug-auctions last week were 41 serons of Huanuco bark of recent import. There is always some demand for this bark for export, but there has not been much available lately. The bark was bought in at 1s. 4d. per lb., but 1s. 3d. would buy: offers of 1s. 1d. have been refused. More is on the way. The total exports of cinchona from Ceylon from January 1 to March 1 were 115,016 lbs., of which 82,818 lbs. went to the United Kingdom and 29,448 to the United States.

COCAINE.—The makers' price for hydrochlorate remains the same (10s. per oz.), but it is possible to make contracts at 9s. 6d.

COCA-LEAVES.—The exports from Java during January amounted to 190 bales, all of which went to Holland. The following figures show the number of bales exported during the last five years from July 1 to January 31:—

1897-8	1896-7	1895-6	1894-5	1893-4
788	645	735	474	55

COCOA-BUTTER.—The next cocoa-butter sales in Amsterdam will be held on April 5, when the offerings will consist

of 70 tons Van Houten, 5 tons Helm, 5 tons Hollandsche, 7 tons Mignon, and 5 tons foreign make. At the London sales to be held on the same date 65 tons Cadbury brand will be offered.

**COLOCYNTH.**—Spanish is in very small supply. Turkey apple is available at 1s. 1d. to 1s. 3d. per lb.

**CREAM OF TARTAR.**—Best white French crystals 73s. per cwt. net, f.o.b. Bordeaux.

**FENNEL-SEED** is offered at 23s. 6d. per cwt. for French, 20s. 6d. for Syrian, and German 36s. to 37s., c.i.f. terms, London.

**GENTIAN-ROOT.**—Quiet at 19s. per cwt. for good continental root, or at 21s. 6d. on the spot. The lower grade offerings appear to have been taken off the market.

**GUM ARABIC.**—To-day's sales were poor owing to the lack of buyers for the American market. Of *East Indian* gums ordinary Ghatti sold at 16s. 6d. to 17s. per cwt.; common red Kurrahee Amrad at 23s.; and pickings at 23s.; Oomra, 26s. to 28s.; and Pondicherry pickings, 21s. 6d. In *Aden* gums a fourth of the offerings sold—good bright pale at 45s. 6d. to 46s. 6d.; fair hard red, 42s.; common, 25s.; siftings, 27s. 6d. to 31s. 6d. Good frosted *Australian* realised 34s., and siftings 20s. to 22s.

**GUM OLIBANUM.**—Siftings sold in auction at 15s. per cwt., and garblings at 14s. 9d. Privately there has been more doing in the so-called insoluble Bushire gum, and a fair quantity of low-priced parcels have changed hands, at about 18s. to 22s. per cwt. The supply of the lower grades is very small.

**HYPOPHOSPHITES.**—Although the continental makers\* of phosphorus quote slightly higher rates for stick phosphorus, the hypophosphites are unchanged at 3s. 3d. to 3s. 6d. per lb. for lime, soda, and potash salts.

**INSECT FLOWERS** are slightly firmer this week, but there will be no real stability in the article until early next month, when American purchases are made.

**IODINE.**—A definite settlement of the dispute between the convention and F. Valera and his backers may be expected shortly. Representatives of the firms who act as receivers and distributors of iodine in this country and on the Continent have been in London this week, and, although the result of the conference has not transpired, it is believed that the convention have won the day. Meanwhile odd lots of iodine come into the market, and are very quietly disposed of at slightly below the convention rates—viz. 7½d. per oz.

**IPECACUANHA.**—Sales of Cartagena root have been made this week at the following rates:—Good bold and undamaged, 6s. 3d. per lb.; first-class damaged, 6s.; and second-class, 5s. 9d. A little business has been done in Rio root at 8s. per lb. for fair root.

**ISINGLASS.**—The auctions on Tuesday passed off with a quiet tone, Brazil being slightly easier, while Penang sold at a slight advance, and Bombay descriptions steady. About half of the offerings (600 packages) were disposed of; the Bombay and Karachi varieties were firmly held, and mostly withdrawn. The following prices were paid:—Penang: Good stout leaf, 4s. 7d. to 4s. 8d. per lb.; fair brownish, 4s. 3d. to 4s. 5d.; ordinary brown, 3s. 5d. to 4s.; good to fine pale tongue, 4s. to 4s. 4d.; good to fair reddish, 3s. 10d. to 4s. 1d.; dark mixed, 3s. 3d. to 3s. 6d. Saigon: Fine pale long leaf, 7s. 2d.; fair brownish, 5s. 9d.; ordinary and small pale, 4s. 3d. to 5s. 2d.; fair stout round, 5s. 1d. Brazil: Fine lump, 4s. 10d. to 5s.; good to fair pale, 4s. 7d. to 4s. 8d.; fair red, 4s. 1d. to 4s. 4d.; good open palish tongue, 3s. 2d. to 3s. 5d.; stout honeycomb, 2s. 9d. Good to fine pale Karachi leaf, 3s. 8d. to 3s. 9d.; fair yellow, 3s. 4d. to 3s. 6d.; ordinary reddish, 2s. 6d. to 2s. 7d.; good bold stout, 4s.; ordinary thin to fine pale leaf, 1s. 1d. to 2s. 5d. Maracaibo, small tongue, 1s. 10d. to 2s. West Indian, good to fine lump, 3s. 8d. to 4s. 5d.; and ordinary, 3s. 2d. per lb.

**KOUSSO.**—A scarce article. About half a ton, which is expected to arrive shortly, is reported to have been sold, and in consequence an advance of 1d. is now asked—viz., 1s. 3d. per lb.

**MANNA.**—Best flake is offered from Messina at 1s. 11d. per lb. in 20-lb boxes; usual boxes, 1s. 6d.; superfine, 9d.; and sorts, 6½d. per lb., f.o.b.

**MATICO-LEAVES.**—For good green leaves 9d. per lb. is asked on the spot.

**MENTHOL** is 3d. per lb. dearer this week, the importers' quotations being 7s. per lb., c.i.f., for March-April shipment.

**MORPHIA.**—There is no further change to report in prices. The condition of the opium-market is an element of uncertainty to all the makers, and the more recent matter between the German and British makers is to some extent also an uncertainty.

**OIL, CASSIA,** is steadier, though there is little business to report. Oil containing 75 per cent. to 80 per cent. cinnamic aldehyde is offered at 4s. 7½d. per lb., "c.i.f." terms; and 80 to 85 per cent., 5s.

**OIL, CASTOR.**—Best medicinal Italian oil is firm at 36s. to 38s. per cwt., f.o.b., while French of first pressings is slightly easier at 27d., c.i.f., and 26d. for seconds. The position of this article appears to be uncertain on account of the Bombay plague.

**OIL, CITRONELLA,** is quiet at 1s. 1½d. per lb. on the spot. 308,402 lbs. were shipped from Ceylon from January 1 to March 1, of which 199,592 lbs. went direct to America and 103,788 to the United Kingdom.

**OIL, CLOVES.**—A good deal of business has been done lately at slightly easier rates, 2s. 10d. per lb. being accepted for large contracts, and 2s. 11d. for wholesale quantities.

**OIL, EUCALYPTUS,** is in good demand and firmer, 1s. 10d. to 1s. 11d. per lb. is the price for good brands, and up to 2s. 3d. for special brands, such as "Platypus." There has recently been inquiry for oil containing about 50 per cent. of eucalyptol, in view of the requirements of the new British Pharmacopœia.

**OIL, JUNE-BERRIES.**—In consequence of the bad crop of berries in Italy and Hungary this oil now stands at a higher figure—viz., 7s. per lb. for super and 3s. for white rectified.

**OIL, LEMON.**—Quiet, but steady at 2s. 9d. per lb. upwards according to quality and brand.

**OIL, OLIVE.**—Is firm and in fair demand. Best Lucca oil is offered at 4s. 9d. to 6s. per gal. ex wharf.

**OIL, PEPPERMINT.**—America HIGH is unchanged, though firm at late rates. Japanese dementholised oil is offered at 3s. per lb., and 40-per-cent. at 4s. 3d. "c.i.f." English is very scarce, at from 22s. to 28s. per lb., according to brand.

**OIL, STAR ANISE.**—Lower. Transactions are reported this week at 6s. 3d. and 6s. 6d. per lb. on the spot, while for forward delivery there are sellers at 6s. 4d. c.i.f. The stock at Hong-Kong is estimated at 70 piculs, which is firmly held at about \$445 per picul.

**OIL, TURPENTINE.**—Steady. American has sold at 23s. 10½d. on the spot.

**OPIUM.**—There has been more demand this week for Persian, and further sales of fine quality have been made at 9s. 6d. to 10s. per lb. All the Turkey descriptions are dull of sale at unchanged prices. Our Smyrna correspondent writes on March 12 that at the commencement of the week under review holders were eager to sell at 7s. 7d. to 7s. 9d. for talequale, 8s. for fine Yerli, and up to 8s. 4d. for Holland grades. Now they will not come to terms at anything lower than 8s. 2d. to 8s. 10d. according to quality. This has been brought about by a sudden change in the weather from mild to severe cold at night (6° to 15° below zero, according to the locality). At the time of writing the cold was still intense, and cannot fail to injure the plantations. This, of course, caused speculators to come forward, who purchased during the week some 150 cases, buying commencing at 7s. 7d. to 7s. 9d. for current talequale and ending at 8s. 2d. to 8s. 4d. As long as the cold weather lasts they intend to continue their operations, and a further advance may ultimately take place. Should, however, fine weather return, prices will drop. In the above sales are included 30 cases of Holland grades, purchased at 8s. 4d.; 8s. 9d. to 8s. 10d. is now asked for this quality. This unexpected speculation has prevented any *bona-fide* export-business for the time being. The market closed firm. The arrivals are 3,406 cases against 2,260 at the corresponding period of 1897.—Our Constantinople correspondent, writing on March 17, states that prices



have risen to the parity of 8s. 2d. per lb. f.o.b. for druggists' and 10s. for Zilles, owing to the severe cold. The week's sales amount to 102 cases. The arrivals are 1,816 cases against 1,530, and the stock 647 cases against 750 at the same time last year. Reports of the growing crop are not satisfactory, and there is no doubt the yield will be small.

**ORANGE-PEEL.**—Little more of the new crop is to come forward, yet buyers are shy in their purchases and only small lots are selling, good Maltese strip at 8d. per lb.

**ORRIS-ROOT.**—The London market is exceedingly quiet, and, in the absence of business, quotations are nominal—viz., Florentine, at 39s. to 40s. per cwt., c.i.f., according to quality, and sorts at 35s. to 36s. Verona, large pieces, 24s. 9d. to 25s.; small white, 24s. 6d., in quantities.

**PHENACETIN.**—There is no actual change in the position though we hear that business has been done at as low as 3s. 4½d. per lb., though the general quotation is 3s. 6d. to 3s. 9d. Bayer's brand is unchanged, at 14s. 3d.

**PHENAZONE.**—There has been more inquiry this week for phenazone answering the B.P. tests, and it is notable that buyers prefer to use the name "Phenazone" rather than "Antipyrin." The makers' price of phenazone is 16s. to 16s. 6d. per lb. according to the quantity bought or contracted for.

**POTASH SALTS.**—Chlorate: the London spot price is 3½d. per lb., and 3½d. to 3¼d. in Liverpool. Prussiate is firm at 6½d. for English. Bichromate is easier, at 3½d. per lb. on the spot.

**QUININE.**—There is nothing more lifeless on the market just now than quinine. Prices are stationary, so are the production and buying. Second-hand holders of German sulphate are reported to be anxious to realise, probably owing to the feeling which seems in the air that the recent falls in the price of bark, and the advent of Java quinine, will bring down the makers' prices. The second-hand price (10d. per oz.) has been a trifle shaded this week. The Java shipments of quinine during January amounted to 71 cases, which were divided between U.S. (25), U.K. (25), and Amsterdam (21). The whole of the last mentioned lot, comprising 8,500 ozs. of sulphate made by the Bandoeng Chinine Fabrik, will be put up to auction in Amsterdam on April 6.

**RHUBARB** is quiet, and at last week's sale prices several lots moved off. Sales of good high-dried root have been made this week at 1s. 2d. per lb., and Canton at 1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d.

**ROSE-LEAVES.**—French of good quality are obtainable at 35f. (68s.) per 100 kilos., and Dutch at 1s. 1d. per lb.

**SAFFRON** still inclines upwards, although no actual change has taken place, Valencia being 34s. 6d. to 43s. 6d. per lb. on the spot, according to quality, and Alicante 23s. 6d.

**SALICIN** is in good demand, and firmly held at 10s. per lb.

**SENEGAL.**—Quiet. Good Western root is offered at 11½d. per lb. c.i.f. The spot price is 1s. 2d.

**SENNA.**—The spring demand continues, and a good deal of business has been passing in middle grades of Tinnevely at between 3d. and 4d. per lb. In view of the comparatively small stocks in London, especially of the best leaf, prices are expected to go higher. Much of what is arriving goes into direct consumption, and old stock is being cleared at a good profit to the holders.

**SHELLAC** has been dull since our last report. On the spot retail sales have taken place at unchanged rates. For arrival there are sellers of TN orange, April-June shipment, at 59s., c.i.f. The latest business includes a sale of 100 cases August delivery at 64s. 6d. per cwt.

**SODA SALTS.**—Nitrate is quiet, at 7s. 6d. per cwt. for ordinary, and 7s. 7½d. for refined. Caustic soda steady, at 8l. 12s. 6d. per ton, f.o.b. Tyne or Liverpool; 70-per-cent., 7l. 5s. to 7l. 10s.; 60-per-cent., 6l. 10s., f.o.b. Liverpool; 70-per-cent. on the spot, 7l. 10s., and 7l. for 60-per-cent. Crystals remain at 55s. per ton in barrels, or 52s. 6d. in bags, ex-ship or wharf in London. On the Tyne 52s. 6d., f.o.b., and in Liverpool 57s. 6d., f.o.b., is the price. Ammonia alkali (53-per-cent.), 77s. 6d. per ton, in bags on rails, or 80s., f.o.b., Liverpool. Bicarbonate, 7l. per ton, landed.

**SPICES.**—The market has been dull during the week, and transactions are small. A large quantity of Cochin *Ginger* was offered at auction on Wednesday; cut sold well at firm prices, but washed rough only partly sold at 2s. per cwt. decline; bold cut brought 86s. to 95s.; second size, 73s. to 76s. 6d.; medium, 45s. to 46s.; small, 35s. to 35s. 6d.; fair to good washed rough, 25s. to 26s.; tips, 17s. 6d.; and good cuttings, 17s. to 17s. 6d. per cwt. Japan bought in at 18s. per cwt.; privately the "c.i.f." price is 19s. Jamaica mostly sold at firm prices for common, and at 3s. per cwt. advance for good; ordinary dark and lean at 75s. to 80s., dull washed at 81s. 6d. to 87s. 6d. per cwt. One hundred bags Bengal sold at 19s. 6d. per cwt. For arrival there has been more demand for Calcutta, and business has been done at 23s. 6d. to 25s. per cwt., c.i.f., for unassorted. Zanzibar *Cloves* have fluctuated, closing again at the lowest. At the sale fair to good fair sold at 3½d. to 3¾d. per lb., and fine at 4d. to 4¼d. per lb. June-August delivery sold at 3½d. early in the week, but since declined to 3¼d. sellers. *Mace* and *Nutmegs* quiet, but steady. *Pimento* dull. *Chillies* were bought in. Fine Mangalore black *Pepper* sold at 7¼d. to 8d. per lb.; Singapore lower at 4d. for fair on the spot, and 4¼d. for March-May shipment. White also lower; 80 bags Penang, odds and ends, sold at 6¼d., short prompt. *Cassia-lignea* firm at 52s. for whole, and 35s. for good broken.

**SULPHONAL.**—The manufacturers' price is unchanged, at 7s. 3d. per lb.—a nominal figure—and they are unwilling to go on at that price.

**THYME-SEED.**—The price is tending upwards in India, and holders are firm in their views, so that thymol is also firm, the price for the white variety on the London market being 5s. per lb., and 7s. for crystals.

**TRAGACANTH.**—A moderate business has been done in the lower qualities at steady values.

**WAX, JAPAN,** is quiet, at 33s. per cwt., c.i.f., for good pale squares.

### COD-LIVER OIL.

Our Bergen correspondent's cablegram of March 17 was:—"Favourable weather continues and the catch of cod to date has been 12,030,000 against 15,182,000 last year, estimated to produce 8,500 barrels of oil, compared with 10,050 barrels at the corresponding date in 1897. Lofoten prospects not good." These figures show no falling off in the fishing, as the following contrast of the results during the past four weeks shows:—

	Feb. 24	March 3	March 10	March 17
	Barrels	Barrels	Barrels	Barrels
1897.....	855	1,087	724	3,700
1898.....	1,367	460	2,140	4,200

The official report of the production of cod-liver oil in Lofoten up to March 19 in each of the past six years is as follows:—

1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893
Hectol.	Hectol.	Hectol.	Hectol.	Hectol.	Hectol.
4,918	8,264	3,968	9,149	6,770	15,528

A hectolitre equals 22 gals. These official figures refer to the oil actually made; our correspondent's figures are based on the catch of fish in all parts of the Norway coast.

\* \* \* \*

Writing on March 19 our Bergen correspondent confirms his cablegram and adds:—

The weather has unfortunately turned very stormy, and as we have been accustomed to have in these days the richest and best fishing-time during the whole year, the unfavourable weather has had a very bad influence on the whole. It is not only this circumstance which seems to have altered the situation in the last few days, but the most extraordinary occurrences have made their appearance in Lofoten, where the fish seem to have concentrated only in the most western part, whereas they seem to have entirely disappeared in the eastern one, where the largest fishing-places are to be found, for which reason the fishing is already taken to be a failure in that district, and the fishing in Lofoten, as a whole, is to be one of the smallest known up to this date during a series of years. For comparison's sake, I have to state that the catch at Lofoten, up to date, hardly amounts to about 6½ millions, against 12½ millions last year, 8½ millions in 1896, 26½ in

1895, 16 $\frac{1}{2}$  in 1894, 16 $\frac{3}{4}$  in 1893, 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  in 1892, 10 $\frac{1}{4}$  in 1891, and 18 $\frac{1}{2}$  in 1890. Such a result, if it continues, cannot be without influence on the quantity of oil produced, and speculation has lately commenced, so that the prices are provoking an upward tendency, and best Lofoten non-congealing cod-liver oil cannot to-day be quoted below 67s. per barrel, f.o.b. terms. It is difficult to predict what the future may bring, but I ought to remark that the Finmarken fishing, which generally starts in April, and continues to the middle of June, may still be able to substantially balance the deficiency of steam-refined oil. The exports from Bergen up to date have been 2,043 barrels, against 1,033 barrels at the corresponding period of last year.

\* \* \* \* \*

Our correspondent's statement as to the failure of the eastern Lofoten fishing is corroborated by communications which we have from Christiania and Tromsø. A manufacturer in the former town says (March 19):—"The result of the Lofoten fishery will be the poorest for many years with regard to fish and oil." He adds that the Lofoten fishing will close at Easter. The Tromsø maker reports on March 15:—"Comparatively rich catches at the Southern districts and Western Lofoten have partly made up for the total failure of Eastern Lofoten, which is by far the most important oil-producing district. March 12 is generally considered the latest date when new 'shoals' seek the inner grounds, and that day has now passed without the slightest sign of an improvement. In the meantime I can quote no price. For forward I am not a seller."

We have also an interesting letter from a Norwegian pharmaceutical firm, in which they say:—

Our latest advices indicate that as yet it is difficult to determine whether the season will be good or bad as a whole. The last few weeks of March are often the turning-point. There has been great activity on the fishing-grounds, and, as a consequence, a high price for the livers was maintained, except at some few places, where, the supply being more than the demand, lower rates ruled. The livers are fat, and, when fresh, give excellent oil; but, owing to the stormy weather, an unusual quantity of tackle had—from sheer necessity—to be left out many days, and on several occasions (much more frequently than usual) before it could be hauled, and the oil from livers then landed could not be "first-grade." A larger proportion than usual of such oil must necessarily come on the market. It is pretty safe to conclude that there will be a good supply of the ordinary medicinal oil, and when the first rush for the new oil is over prices will certainly not be high.

\* \* \* \* \*

We have given these different views so that the trade may see for themselves what the position in Norway exactly is. The facts from all sources are in practical agreement, but there is a difference in opinions, which also obtains in London. This week the quotations are again higher by 2s. 6d. and more per barrel according to brand, and no brand of new oil is quoted at less than 70s. per barrel, c.i.f. terms. The quotations range up to 85s. and 90s. The market is firm, but only retail quantities of oil are in sight, and most sales are for forward delivery. The general impression is that the oil will not go higher, and the fact that experienced buyers are making hand-to-mouth purchases confirms this.

#### The Liverpool Drug-market.

Our Liverpool correspondent, writing on March 23, reports that there is no improvement in the market for *Castor oil*; arrivals have again slightly depressed the article, and 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. has been accepted, ex quay, for good seconds Calcutta, and the same figure for first-pressure French; 3d. is asked for second-pressure French, and Bombay and Madras grades are still wanting. A sale of damaged *Scammony-root*—65 bales on account of whom it might concern—realised 15s. per cwt. for the lot. *Gum-arabic* sorts continue to be steadily held for the previous advanced prices, and 75s. has again been paid for soft yellowish gum; medium grades are rather declining, very few inquiries having been experienced, and in the absence of business there is no change to notice. *Kola-nuts* continue to move off at 2d. for good dry, and no movement is reported in the fresh. Fine new *Sierra Leone chillies* are selling at the late rates, one ton fine bright red realising 44s. per cwt. *African ginger* has become somewhat easier, and sales are reported at 20s. *Cream of tartar* is without quotable change, but is very firmly held at late rates. *Beeswax* is getting into a very narrow compass, and sales of Chilian mixed yellow and grey are recorded at 7l. 2s. 6d., and also

at 7l., while 6l. 8s. 9d. was paid for a small lot of *Sierra Leone*. *Quillaiia-bark* meets with a steady inquiry, and the late figures of 19s. to 20s. are well maintained, with the prospect of even better figures during the consuming season. *Honey* seems to be still creeping up, sales of Chilian, grade X, being made at 26s. 6d. to 30s. per cwt. *Californian* is well held, especially the better grades, which are wanted. *Leuogreek-seed* is scarce, and holders ask 12s. 6d. for Egyptian. *Irish moss* is inquired for, and small lots of common are available at 15s. per cwt.

#### The Hamburg Drug-market.

Our correspondent writes on March 22, saying:—Business is very quiet. *Russian anise* is a shade weaker, at 39m. per 100 kilos. *Star-anise seed* unchanged, at 220m. per 100 kilos. on the spot. *Camphor* is quiet, and shows little business, at 240m. per 100 kilos. *Condurongo-bark* is quiet, at 45m. per 100 kilos. *Cumin* unchanged (Malta), at 38m. to 40m. per 100 kilos. *Cocaine* is dull of sale; second-hand price is 300m. *Cevadilla-seed* is quiet, at 76m. per 100 kilos. *Ergot of rye* without business, at last week's quotations. *Lycopodium* is unchanged, at 240m. per 100 kilos. *Quinine* is quiet, with second-hand sellers at 28m. per kilo. *Quillaiia-bark* steady, at 34m. to 35m. per 100 kilos. *Carnauba wax* is firm; grey is held for 85m.; fine yellow, 145m. per 100 kilos.; *Japan wax*, spot-price is firm at 71m.; forward delivery at 68m. per 100 kilos. *Castor oil* is quiet, first-pressing in barrels spot, 58m. to 57 $\frac{1}{2}$ m.; May-December, 52 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. per 100 kilos. Non-congealing *Cod-liver oil* is steady, at 70m. per barrel, but buyers hold back. *Oils (essential)*: *Russian anise* is steady, at 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. per kilo.; *Star-anise oil* dull, at 15m. per kilo.; *Clove oil* firm, at 6m. per kilo.

#### New York Drug-market

Our New York correspondent writes on March 18 that the market is quiet with little of a favourable nature to report. *Opium* is firm at the recent advance and is now held at \$3.05 to \$3.10 in case lots, a live interest being displayed in the market by speculators. *Quinine* is quoted on the basis of 22c. for bulk in large tins both for domestic and imported. *Canada Balsam* is scarce here and at primary sources higher prices are expected, \$1.70 to \$1.80 per lb. being present quotations. *Copaiba* of all grades is firm. *Tolu* is easier owing to plentiful supplies, 35 to 37c. being quoted. *Cassara Sagrada* is comparatively scarce, but owing to the slow demand prices have not advanced. *Wahoo bark* of the root is lower at 15c. Wild-cherry bark is scarce and in good demand at former quotations. *Golden seal* root is available 42 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. *Jalap* of the new crop offers at 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Honduras *Sarsaparilla* root is firm at from 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. to 36c. HIGH oil peppermint is no longer available at \$1.10. Manufacturers' agents ask \$1.15 for round lots, and \$1.20 is the jobbing price. *Oil of wintergreen* "natural" sells at \$1.05. *Sassafras oil* is weak at 35c. for natural; artificial, sp. gr. 1.070, 33c. to 35c.; artificial, No. 230c. With the approach of Spring with regard to the drug-market dealers look forward to a better and more satisfactory trade.

#### ARRIVALS IN LONDON.

THE following is a list of the principal drugs and chemicals which have arrived in the port of London, and other large ports in England, during the past week. The figures indicate the number of original packages (bales, casks, &c.):—

Aloes (Cape) .....	50	Gentian-root .....	29
Areca nuts .....	50	Ginger .....	1272
Argol .....	202	Honey .....	584
Balsam copaiba.....	5	Iodine .....	10
Benzooin.....	57	Ipecacuanha .....	14
Borax .....	2790	Insect-flowers.....	15
Buchu .....	68	Kola nuts .....	107
Calumba .....	503	Oil, lemongrass .....	26
Camphor.....	66	"rose (Bombay) .....	8
Caraway seed .....	85	Olibanum .....	98
Cardamoms .....	100	Orris-root .....	10
Chamomiles (Belg.) .....	10	Olive oil .....	520
Cinchona-bark (E.I.) .....	43	Quicksilver.....	5314
Cloves .....	1107	Saffron .....	5
Coca-leaves (Ceylon).....	18	Sarsaparilla .....	103
Cocaine (crude) .....	3	Senna (Tinnevely) .....	216
Coriander-seed .....	111	Wax (bees') .....	927
Cubebs.....	162	(Japan) .....	135



## London Chamber of Commerce.

## CHEMICAL-TRADE SECTION.

A MEETING was held at the offices of the Chamber on Monday at 2.30 P.M. Seven members only attended—viz., Messrs. Thomas Tyrer (in the chair), R. Bannister (Somerset House), A. B. Hill (Davy, Hill & Sons, Yates & Hicks), David Howard (Howards & Sons), Martin Perls, E. A. Webb (Evans, Lescher & Webb), R. White (A. White & Sons). The minutes of the last meeting of the Section (held January, 1897) having been signed, the Secretary mentioned regarding the subjects dealt with in them he had to report that the increased dock-charges had been withdrawn, and in connection with the subject as a whole he observed that the Secretary of the British Legation at Paris had prepared a report which dealt with all continental dock-charges. This would shortly be published as a Foreign Office paper.

## THE SPIRIT LAWS.

The committee appointed last year to inquire—along with representatives of the Drug Club, the Society of Chemical Industry, and manufacturers of aniline dyes—into the use of duty-free spirit in this country now reported through the Chairman (Mr. Tyrer), who said that the committee had met, and the subject had had from individuals a large amount of consideration, and with no very great unanimity or similarity in the proposals and the means whereby the difficulties raised by the Excise in the interview which they had had could be met. Nothing could exceed the consideration, courtesy, and openness that had been shown them by the Excise authorities. The more the question was looked into the more difficult it became, for it was not only a question of revenue, but also of the means for protecting the revenue. A concession of the kind asked for would mean supervision of a more or less stringent character, rather "more" probably, judging by the past, than "less." It had been felt by some manufacturers that they would rather leave matters as they were now, unless the concessions made were very liberal. In other words, they did not want men always pottering round the premises; they preferred to use such solvents as they possibly could, even at the risk of not doing much business. Other manufacturers said with the greatest possible candour, "Well, get it if you can." The subject was one of considerable difficulty, and the fact that nearly all the concessions that have been made have been granted on the representations of interested persons, and made to them and nobody else, seemed to indicate the way in which the matter might ultimately be met. Mr. Tyrer then detailed concessions which had been made by the Board, showing how they had gradually been enlarged in a piecemeal way, and referred to the fact that one of the parties in the interview with the Board has since obtained permission to use denatured methyl alcohol in a manufacturing-process for twelve months as an experiment, and this illustrated the value of individual approach to the Board. As to the course recommended in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST in dealing with alcoholic extracts, he wished to say that they would have to build up their case very solidly before they got the Board to make any concession. It was not a question of drawback only, but one of the actual use of free spirit.

Mr. David Howard said the Chairman had accurately stated the case. There was no doubt that the authorities were willing to grant such concessions as could be granted, but it was largely in consequence of the enormous duty on alcohol that manufacturers were prevented from having the use of duty-free alcohol, or such facilities as manufacturers have in Germany, where the duty on spirit was much less. After all, the intrinsic value of the spirit was small—they could get a certain species at 6d. per proof gallon—it was the duty which made it so dear. He did not think it was possible to compete with the Germans, and did not think the House of Commons would aid them. The temptations in the use of free spirit were so tremendous that it was almost inconceivable that the facilities granted in Germany should be granted in England, and if they were so granted it was inconceivable that they would not be abused.

Mr. E. A. Webb thought, as regards solid extracts, that the case had not been properly put. He understood the proposal

was to place a countervailing duty on all solid extracts imported into this country, equal to the loss in spirit which they experienced, and that a similar drawback should be given on exportation of such solid extracts. For export orders where they had to give close quotations to merchants in the City, they found that such orders went to Germany and were shipped direct from Hamburg. It was not, therefore, merely a question of duty-free alcohol, but of a countervailing duty and drawback.

Mr. Howard said that had been considered by the committee and discussed with the Board, and the outcome was that the matter should be gone into again when the new British Pharmacopœia was published.

Mr. Webb: They seem to think that they would allow us for an average loss, as in the case of tinctures.

The Chairman said that the average would depend on the requirements of the B.P. He again stated that it is incumbent upon the persons interested to exert themselves. Taking Mr. Webb's reference as it stood it was a question for the Customs to deal with.

Mr. Bannister assented.

It was resolved that the joint committee should continue its work.

## ACETYLENE.

The Customs having published an order prohibiting the importation of acetylene in the liquefied state, or when under a pressure greater than the equivalent of 100 inches of water, as these have, by a Home Office order, been declared to be explosive. The question for the Section to consider was whether any action should be taken, and it was decided to take none. The Chairman stated that he had failed to get corroboration of a statement that a small percentage of acetone added to liquefied acetylene made it non-explosive.

Mr. Howard expressed his very strong opinion that acetylene is a very dangerous explosive, and he would be sorry to have it on his firm's premises.

## LEGISLATION AFFECTING THE TRADE.

Of the eight Bills in Parliament enumerated on the agenda Mr. Howard suggested that they should first deal with the (1) Boiler Inspection and Registration Bill, and (2) Steam-engines and Boilers' Bill. These Bills would render small manufactories utterly impossible, and at any price he (Mr. Howard) would prefer to be without the majestic services of a boiler-inspector. It would mean that every tea-kettle would be a boiler, and require a trade-unionist to look after it.

The Chairman said the Manufacturers' Section of the Chamber had been founded for the purpose of taking up these questions, and it was decided that they should take the matter in hand.

Referring to the Adulteration (Food Products) Bill, the Chairman said it seemed inevitable that they should have a properly-constituted Board of Reference, but whether they, as manufacturers, should be allowed to serve was another question. If the Government was against the idea the Chamber ought to oppose it by every means.

Mr. Bannister said this Board of Reference was the great difficulty. How was it to be constituted? And was it simply to be a means of giving nice berths for a few people? He thought the Local Government Board should be the Board of Reference, as it dealt with sanitary and local matters, and if the Government told them to they would be obliged to carry out the Act.

Mr. Howard said some Board was desirable. They could not leave decisions on standards to analysts, who were possibly even ignorant of the first elements of therapeutics, nor to magistrates, whom they did not expect to know anything at all about such things. What they wanted was an official body who would decide, once for all, whether or not it was, for instance, desirable to use boracic acid as a preservative, and, if so, under what conditions. It was essential that the Board should be composed of impartial persons; they did not necessarily want public analysts.

Mr. Bannister said they would see by the suggestions already made that the L.G.B. must have greater powers in regard to the Act, as there was nobody who could enforce the Act, so that in most parts of the country the Act had not been taken up at all. While they were at that they could enlarge the powers of the Board as to reference.

Mr. Perls instanced the case of admixture of 60 per cent. of turpentine with lemon oil, which was very general, the consequence being that there was hardly any possibility of selling oil of lemon in Scotland without the admixture.

Mr. Howard proposed that a committee should be appointed, but Mr. Tyrer pointed out that the existing committee covered all the trade interest.

The Secretary then announced that there were two Bills in the House of Commons dealing with merchandise marks: one by Sir Howard Vincent, which was a slight modification of the Bill as it appeared last year, in which it was proposed that the words "Made abroad" should be substituted for the words now used indicating the country of origin. The other Bill dealt with the marking of goods in transit. In the latter it is proposed that such goods should not be marked with the country of origin, and Mr. Howard said of it: "It is a Bill to sacrifice the manufacturer of England to the merchant of England."

These and other Bills were left to the Manufacturers' Section to deal with. This brought the public business to an end; but after it there was some further conversation in regard to the spirit question, which, however, was of a private character.

## Commercial Notes.

### BRITISH CONSULAR REPORTS.

The following reports have been issued this week which contain matters interesting to the drug-trade:—

*Las Palmas* (No. 2,036, price 2½*d.*).—An interesting report on the trade of 1896, written by Mr. Alec Ferguson, and kept back at H.M.'s Consulate at Tenerife until this year. It contains lists of duties on spices, &c., and a strong exhortation to British merchants to look after their trade with Las Palmas, which is worth 750,000*l.* a year. The importation of drugs is referred to; they are admitted duty-free, and the sale is free except in the case of a few which may only be sold (by retail, we understand) by registered Spanish pharmacists. Oils and pains and soaps are valuable imports, the latter coming exclusively from Liverpool, and particulars are given in regard to the kinds liked. As to Cochineal, the Consul remarks:—

There is a slight increase in the bulk of the trade, but it cannot be said to be of any great use as an export while the price remains so very low. The present value will not admit of any expenses being bestowed on its cultivation, and it can only be grown on waste lands to a profit or return on capital. Another 4*d.* on the pound in the price would make it once more a grand source of revenue, and at that price it would pay consumers to use it. The article is in very few hands, and a sort of combination seems to exist to keep the price where it is.

*Venice* (No. 2,037, price 3*d.*).—Mr. Consul de Zuccato reports on the trade for 1896-97. In 1896 the imports of colonial produce and drugs were valued at 220,507*l.*; medicines, 97,423*l.*; and oils, 603,915*l.* Tables are given showing all imports and exports in detail. Great Britain supplied 724,076*l.* worth, more than any country except Italy. Amongst the comments we note the following:—

*Boric Acid*.—A project has lately been presented to the Italian Parliament for the abolition of the export-duty on the boric acid which is found here. It is alleged that in consequence of the export-duty the boric products manufactured in Italy have suffered considerably, and the imposition of a duty on the importation of foreign borax and refined boric acid, which so far are admitted free of duty, was urged. These products are chiefly imported from England.

*Canary Islands* (No. 2,039, price ½*d.*).—A report covering 1896-97. The only item of interest to the drug-trade is one stating that there is a disposition to increase the culture of cochineal, but the poor demand does not encourage the cultivators.

*Galveston and Sabine Pass* (No. 2,038, price 2*d.*).—A long report. Amongst the subjects dealt with are cotton-seed oil (exports in 1896-97, 236,364*l.*) and borax (exports, 57,045*l.*). Full details regarding the destination of the products are given country by country, also of imports. Great Britain is easily first.

*Cherbourg* (No. 2,035, price 3*d.*).—This report also covers the trade and agriculture of St. Malo. Dairy-farming and hen-rearing are the principal topics of the report, which contains many useful hints on these subjects. The most interesting point in the report is about the exportation of fresh milk to London, which seems to be growing because of a wonderful antiseptic. The report says:—

A dairyman near Lyons has discovered a new and very effective, though harmless, antiseptic—a non-poisonous wild herb common to the country. It is said he was led to the discovery by noticing that the milk of cows which had eaten of the herb in question did not acidify as rapidly as other milk! He experimented with the plant in the form of a tincture with extraordinary results. One drop of the tincture added to 1 quart of milk stopped all fermentation for over six days. The milk thus treated was bottled and corked, kept at various temperatures for four days, then exposed to the air, kept thus for forty-eight hours without showing any trace of acidification. With the cream subsequently rising, excellent butter was made, and the butter still felt the effect of the antiseptic by keeping better than any other.

Analysts in Paris and London have failed to detect the antiseptic in the milk. The discoverer tried to sell his secret in London, and finally disposed of it to a French firm, who are making the most of it. The Consul gives two pages about it. Is it formaldehyde?

We can send any of the foregoing reports by post for ½*d.* more than the prices mentioned.

### UNITED STATES FOREIGN TRADE.

An official report of the United States foreign trade during 1897 has been issued, from which we observe that the imports of drug staples, taken as a whole, show a considerable increase over those for 1896. This is in a great measure due to the tariff changes which came into operation in July. Among the articles showing an important increase in the amount imported are the unceremonized:—

Cinchona ... lbs.	100,000	Pepper ...	\$ 5,400,000
Cochineal ... "	33,000	Potash chlorate lbs.	1,000,000
Camphor ... "	800,000	" muriate ...	20,300,000
Bleaching-powder ...	9,655,000	Quinine salts oz.	1,200,000
Essential oils \$	376,000	Shellac ... lbs.	1,300,000
Opium ... \$	194,000	Soda caustic... "	10,000,000

On the other hand, the articles which show decreased imports are:—

Glycerine ... lbs.	11,000,000	Soda ash ... lbs.	37,300,000
Gum arabic ... "	200,000	Soda nitrate... tons	21,000
Liquorice-root ... "	19,400,000	Brimstone ... "	7,000
Mineral waters gals.	300,000	Vanilla ... lbs.	12,500
Potash nitrate lbs.	3,800,000		

In exports, toilet-soaps increased by \$54,000, ginseng-root 10,000 lbs., glucose 5,900,000 lbs., linseed oil 27,000 gals., and varnish 59,000 gals. The exports of peppermint oil declined by 19,000 lbs., perfumery \$42,000, quicksilver 520,000 lbs., and turpentine 976,000 gals.

### TURPENTINE AND RESIN.

Among the goods exported from the port of Brunswick, Ga., during 1897 were 63,719 barrels of turpentine, 264,447 barrels of resin, and 5,182 barrels of cotton-seed oil. With the exception of salt from Liverpool no goods of any consequence were imported from Great Britain. The port of Wilmington, North Carolina, exported 34,293 barrels of turpentine and 164,283 barrels of resin during the above period.

### ITALIAN TRADE.

A report on "Suggestions for Development of British Trade in Italy" has just been published by the British Foreign Office, and can be obtained from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode for ½*d.* (No. 449). The remarks are of a general nature, and refer to no particular trade. They state that Italy has made of late years great industrial progress, and there is an increased demand for goods connected with the different processes of manufacturing, which Great Britain should be able to supply at least as well and as cheaply as any other country.

British goods still enjoy in Italy their old prestige, and a dealer will always, whenever he can, assure his customers, as an inducement to them to buy, that such-and-such articles are of British manufacture.



## Correspondence

In writing letters for publication correspondents should adopt a concise, but not abbreviated, style. They are requested to write on one side of the paper only. Letters, with or without a nom-de-plume, must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer. Queries should be written on separate pieces of paper, and the regulations printed under the sections to which they apply should be strictly observed.

### Pharmacy Acts Amendment Bill, 1898.

"We confess we cannot get up any enthusiasm for the Bill." [C. & D. Editorial.]

SIR,—The above quotation from your editorial columns applies most aptly to the condition of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Pharmaceutical Association with respect to the Bill, and it is with some amusement I read in your last issue of the "indignant feeling in Glasgow at the opposition from Mr. Cross, M.P."

Glasgow is dead apathetic, and does not care two straws for the whole concern. Here are the facts to support this statement. At an ordinary meeting of the Association a motion to discuss the Bill had to be abandoned for want of an attendance. Subsequently, without notice and with a total attendance of thirteen members, the Chairman produced the Society's "whip," and asked the meeting to give its support. After a little delay a motion was proposed to approach the local M.P.'s in favour of the Bill, and was seconded after a little hesitation by a gentleman named from the chair. I then drew attention to the apathy of the trade, and suggested the matter be left alone, whereupon the Chairman remarked he would act upon the motion whether the Association approved or not, and ultimately the motion was carried.

Upon this slender fabric does the movement in Glasgow rest, and the relation of the above facts has been of great service to me in explaining to local M.P.'s the real value of the communication from the G. & W. S. P. A.

I have had the pleasure of interviewing Mr. Cross, and of supplying him with opposition details, syllabus of the Society's examinations, editorials from THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, &c., and the little amendment to Clause 3 has resulted therefrom. At Mr. Cross's request I have also furnished similar details to other M.P.'s, some of whom have since promised support if required, while others are willing to give it a fair consideration if debated.

So far as I can ascertain there is no indignation over the opposition to the Bill, unless it be on the part of those gentlemen who had hoped to get over the pharmaceutical wall instead of entering by the "examination" gate.

No, Sir, we are not indignant, and we cannot enthuse.

Yours truly,

69 South Portland Street,  
Glasgow: March 21.

ARTHUR MCKELLAR.

### Irish Interests and the British Pharmacy Bill.

SIR,—The fate of the Pharmacy Bill may have already been decided ere these lines can reach the eyes of your *clientèle*, yet I should like to observe that I have had to ask some of the Irish members to support that amendment to Clause 3 which provides certain privileges to apothecaries, as such may be of interest to us on this side of the water.

Yours truly,

19 North Earl Street, Dublin,  
March 21.

J. C. MCWALTER.

### The Irish Examination.

SIR,—I sincerely hope the Council will not allow Mr. Doran to have his way in the matter of the recognition of chemicals at the examination, but that students will henceforth be shown chemicals for recognition in the ordinary way. Surely this is of more practical importance than (to reproduce some of the examiner's own questions of recent date in the *viva voce*) to be able to write out the formula of "sulphonal" or even "acetanilide." In my own case I thought it very strange that the then examiner in pharmacy

should show me for recognition the purely chemical substances which the syllabus requires the examiner in chemistry to do. This must be to the detriment of the pharmacy examiner, who has quite an array of galenicals without treading upon the ground of another. I notice, of course, that the Council have been firm with Mr. Doran in this matter, and anyone can see that his explanation is only a piece of word-juggling. Meanwhile, let me say that what is wanted is a compulsory curriculum of the whole course for the Licence examination, instead of the present miserable syllabus, which is ambiguous and antiquated, as, indeed, Mr. Doran says.

I cordially agree with Mr. Doran that for the examination in chemistry insufficient time is allowed. This is most unfair, to those candidates especially who have systematically and carefully worked up their subject. Mr. Doran's suggestion here is worthy of attention. My letter is already too long, or I should have referred to other matters. Suffice it to say that with the issue of the new Pharmacopœia let us hope we will have, in Ireland at least, a compulsory curriculum worthy of those who have an interest in and who look after the training of those who select pharmacy as their calling in life.

Sincerely yours,

The Eagle Pharmacy, York Street,  
Belfast, March 9.

SAM HOGG.

### The Trade Report.

SIR,—We read with interest the editorial article which appears in the current issue of your journal commenting on the Market Report, which is given each week in your columns, since we think with you that retail buyers do not always fully appreciate the heavy charges which have in most cases to be added to the cost of goods either imported or bought in public sale.

Purchases made under these conditions have to be paid for within a few days, and this, combined with the necessity of holding a large and fluctuating stock, and the fairly long credit accorded to the retail trade, means that a correspondingly large capital is required.

To take the instances given by you—viz., quinine and cod-liver oil—of course, any of the leading firms deal in larger lots than 1,000 oz. of the former or a few barrels of the latter; and it should be remembered that these, in common with most other drugs, are of a more or less speculative character, liable to extreme and sometimes sudden fluctuations in value. Thus it may happen that before a shipment is sold by the importer (possibly even before it arrives), the market may have fallen in price.

We see, for instance, that in 1896 we paid as high as 210s. per barrel for cod-liver oil, while soon after the quotation declined considerably, and has been falling pretty well ever since.

To take a comparatively small article, for which, however, there is a limited demand in certain quarters—Chaulmoogra oil—we cannot possibly receive a shipment under three months from the time the order is dispatched, and we have paid as much as 7s. 6d. per lb. for this, or sometimes, as at present, about one-third that figure. We merely give these instances as showing that a certain margin must be allowed to cover these risks, and that it is not always possible for a retail buyer to purchase even fairly large parcels of drugs at the lowest rates given in your reports. There exists, however, sufficient competition, so that it is possible for any buyer to purchase in quantity at prices showing a very much smaller margin of profit to the distributing firms than was the case ten or fifteen years ago; and how keen this competition is may be judged from the fact that quotations received from the principal firms will be found to agree very closely; and when it is remembered that in few (if any) manufacturing businesses do the working expenses represent so large a proportion of the total sales as is the case with the wholesale drug-trade, it will be admitted that modern profits are by no means excessive.

Your obedient servants,

H. E. STEVENSON & Co.

130 Southwark Street, London, S.E.,  
March 21.

### "Laudanum."

SIR,—It is not quite correct to say that "laudanum" is a corruption of "ladanum" and "labdanum." It is more

correct to say that "labdanum" and "laudanum" are corruptions of "ladanum." According to Liddell and Scott, the Greeks got this word from the Arabic as *ladanon*. In Latin it became "ladanum," and this in our shops and herbals was corrupted as aforesaid, and also into "lapdanum" and "lapadanum." The shrub yielding the gum, *Cistus Ladan*—or, as later writers term it, *Cistus ladanifera*—was cultivated in Cyprus and Candy. Tournefort, in his "Voyage into the Levant," describes the plant, the mode of gathering the juice, and the cakes of different sizes into which it was made up (usually adulterated with the black sand of the parts in which it grows). He invariably calls it "laudanum," adding, in one instance, the alternative form "labdanum." Gerard, following Dioscorides, says that is best "which is sweet of smell, and somewhat Greene, that easily waxeth soft, is fat, without sand, and is not easily broken, but very full of rosin or gumme." It was credited with binding and mollifying properties, was good for "lack," for pains in the ears, and in plasters for pains generally, with other uses that need not be enumerated.

If we compare this preparation with the first laudanum of the London College, we shall see how naturally the name would be transferred from the one to the other. Here is the earliest formula I have met with:—"Take extract of opium made with an equal quantity of spirit of wine and water, ʒj.; extract of saffron, made after the same manner, ʒiiss.; castor, ʒj. Let them be made up into a mass with tincture made of the *Species Diambre* (composed of cinnamon, mace, angelica, &c.), spirit of wine, ʒss.; add oil of nutmegs, gutt. x.; and then with a gentle heat evaporate to a due consistence." This was doubtless modelled on the laudanum of Paracelsus, to which, by the way, that prince of quacks gave the name, not of *laudanum* simply, but of *laudanum opiatum*—a fact which abundantly proves the transference of the name under consideration. In addition to this, there soon sprang up numerous other laudanums, or *laudana* (as Salmon calls them). Among these were Van Helmont's mineral laudanum without opium (made of "the sulphur of the vitriol of Mars"), the *laudanum cydoniatum* of Syivius, Sydenham's liquid laudanum, Salmon's ditto, and his "volatile laudanum" (solid). In most of these there was an acid present, and the liquid preparations were made, not with spirit, but with Canary wine. We may say of all of them that astringency was aimed at as a chief end; they were also all more or less aromatic, as was also another celebrated laudanum I have omitted to mention—the tartarised liquid laudanum of our later Dispensatories.

In the light of these facts, it is hardly possible to doubt that the term "laudanum" as we now use it comes from the name of the *cistus* gum. I am not sure that we may not go further, and say that the first opiate preparation called laudanum was, in a sense, an imitation of this gum—that is to say, it was meant to resemble it in appearance and general character, but to be (of course) a more powerful, and, therefore, a more useful, drug.

I do not think the suggestion that opium itself was ever known as laudanum will stand. I have met with it under the name of *lac papaveris*, but never under the other name.

I am, &c.,

Epworth.

C. C. BELL.

#### The Proposed Assistants' Union.

SIR,—“Watchman” says, “a trade-union is our only salvation.” I fancy it would be our ruin. We have lately had an instance of trade-unionism in the engineering dispute, and comment is needless. The supposed benefits conferred by a trade-union would be counteracted by an ultimate Employers’ Federation. What can the P.A.T.A. do in the matter? It is no function of theirs to organise a trade-union, and I cannot conceive how it would benefit us if they were to do so. I agree with “Anti-humbag” that *L.S.D.* chiefly prevents assistants commencing on their own account. But where are the 100 places he speaks of where “the drug-companies cease from troubling?”

“Qualified” has evidently become a willing victim to the trade-union mania, modified to “combination.” I would remind him that drug-companies do not put qualified managers in all their branches. This I can prove. Certainly, if all assistants, qualified and unqualified, refused to work for companies, it would remedy matters; but is it likely such an event will happen?

“Spes,” in his sarcastic letter, evidently thinks that by employing assistants (made in Germany) he will be able to ignore the Pharmacy Act. He rejects the idea that companies will monopolise the sale of drugs, but this is what they are endeavouring to do. Do they pay large dividends from the profits made by selling patents at about cost-price? Do they fill their windows with them? No, they fill them with their “own blood-purifier, 2s. bottle for 1s. 6/.,” and so on.

The proper way to improve matters will be:—

To consolidate the entire trade by supporting the Pharmaceutical Society; then to bring forward a Bill to

(a) To make it illegal for a company to have an open shop, unless that shop is managed by a qualified man.

(b) The name of the manager to be disclosed.

(c) The number of pharmacies to be limited according to population.

(d) The supply and sale of drugs to be entrusted to registered chemists.

Yours respectfully,

DISSATISFIED. (125/26.)

SIR,—As a qualified assistant hoping to be in business for myself in a few years, and who is not, has not been, nor ever will be a drug-company's assistant, if means can prevent it, I emphatically disagree with “Tocsin” and “Watchman.”

“Tocsin” as good as says, Let the qualified man of the stores come to me, and although he may have no capital, I offer him less salary, longer hours, night duty, and Sunday duty, and in due course he will be able to go into business for himself. “Tocsin” spins a one-sided yarn without even suggesting a remedy. Let me recommend the remedy: Give the same salary, the same business hours, the Sundays free, and everything else equal, and no qualified man will lend himself to the store.

Many proprietors will cry out “Impossible.” I say it is not impossible. I am speaking faithfully when I say that the profits accruing from my work done on Sundays—every other Sunday—amount to over 35% in the year. These Sunday extras more than keep me in grub for the rest of the week. Is this any better than the paupers of a workhouse cracking so many stones before they have the skill? “Then why do you do it?” some may ask, and my reply is the same as that of others—I don't know. If it were necessary I could deal with the requirements of each customer who helps to make the Day of Rest a misery to existence. Not one prescription in ten is a new one, dated on that day. Nothing will ever make me believe it is necessary to coddle up the public into these bad habits as pharmacists do to-day. The stores do a fair share of dispensing. How is it they retain their customers? The remedy is in the hands of the complaining pharmacists, and until such times that qualified and all other assistants have better hours and better pay; and so long as there is a stores demand there will be a supply. We must not begrudge the man with no capital doing the best for himself, as we are all doing or hope to do.

Finally, let “Tocsin” and “Watchman” calculate in their own minds how long it will take an assistant in their establishments, commencing with only a few pounds in his pocket, to save 300% or 400% to set up or purchase a business. Let them also picture the assistant after he has scraped this together: after spending the best of his life and energy for the good of his employer, trying to do a good turn for himself, he finds mind and body well nigh a wreck, and business, ten chances to one, an utter failure.

REALITIES. (125/70.)

SIR,—In spite of the cold water you saw fit to shower on the letter of “Tocsin,” I am inclined to agree with “Watchman” that it contained the most practical suggestion for the betterment of the modern chemist, qualified or unqualified, which has appeared in your pages for many a week. How well it hit the mark is shown by the ill-concealed alarm of the drug-company chairman, and the self-revelatory epistle of the drug-company assistant, which appeared in your last. To the former gentleman, I would say that the bogey of foreign competition is not likely to deter assistants from the formation of a union, for they may be excused for suspecting that if it had been possible to work a company-pharmacy with German or other cheap labour the thing would have been tried by someone years ago. To the latter, I would commend the warnings of “Qualified,” “Anti-humbag,”



and others of the butterfly class, may complacently chuckle that for a few years they are without work on Sundays, and can sleep without a night-bell; but, as "Tocsin" logically urges, it is only a question of time before some of them will find themselves without work on weekdays too, and may perforce learn to sleep without a night-shirt. For the statement "the small man with small money can always find a hundred places to open his small shop" never was true, and is becoming daily more palpably ridiculous. Some years ago, when assistant in the country, it was a common thing for me to hear travellers congratulate my governor upon being in a place too small for an "Octopus" to invade; but since those days that town, and many still smaller ones, have been favoured with the overflowing philanthropy of the company-chemist, with his "emancipatory" price-lists and resplendent shop-fittings. I could point to instances to-day where assistants, quite as smart as the average manager, have been deterred from commencing business because some *confrère* has sold his services to a drug-company coming into their neighbourhood, and thus created an unfair and impossible competition. I say, moreover, from my own personal observation, that there are qualified men in the employ of companies who have to work harder, and under conditions of greater discomfort, than the average assistant of the legitimate chemist, and often for longer hours than other houses in the same locality. "Tocsin" tells of an octopus which keeps its tentacles in motion on bank holidays. I had an opportunity of witnessing last summer a similar phenomenon. It would seem as if the modern Esau not only sold his birthright, but allowed himself to be mulcted of the consolatory pottage.

The only remedy is combination. Let the assistants' associations throughout the kingdom take the matter up, and they will soon have sufficient following to make their victory certain.

Faithfully yours,

FIRY CROSS. (127/42.)

SIR,—Four years ago, in a north-country town, a few apprentice-aspirants to pharmacy-fame were talking over future prospects, including the terrible approaching Minor. Four of us just finishing our apprenticeships were on the verge of journeying to "Reekie," to complete our studies before facing the music. Our future prospects were that evening thrashed out. The verdict was—(1) Get the Minor at any cost; (2) work anywhere for the largest remuneration and save money; (3) form a company of chemists only and divide the profits.

At present (three years later) five are in good positions in limited companies (including myself), having adapted ourselves, "Darwin style," to our surroundings as knowledge and money suckers. I have never seen my friends since leaving "Reekie," but we have a system of correspondence by which we exchange (our masters') ideas. Since then, two (one a Major) have joined our ranks. That is our present position, and we all appreciate the fact that the struggle has not yet begun. We have degraded ourselves, worked harassing hours, been scoffed at by our West-end friends, and "our poor blind masters consider" have taken a wonderful interest in the various businesses to which we belong. Merely "as a means to an end," however, and that "end" will cease to exist as a myth shortly, providing our ranks are not broken by melting in any way.

At present our respective salaries range from 150*l.* to 120*l.* the Major leaving 160*l.* at our unanimous request a few weeks ago, to accept 110*l.* in another store, the successful system of which we could not quite understand but mean to. I might say two wholesale clerks are in our movement, on sufferance, and if their knowledge and loyalty "to us" justify it, we will admit them to the sacred ring, and, if possible, qualify them later on.

We anticipate forming a typical chemists' company; shall have a number of shops; shall explain to the public our position; try and enlist their sympathy by each giving a master's attention to his own business; buy in a good market; conscientiously divide the profits, and let the same tact and ability which carried many of us through the Minor at the first attempt do the rest.

Respectfully yours,

WE ARE SEVEN. (126/44.)

SIR,—Though "Tocsin" seems to somewhat overstep the mark (a common fault with agitators), I think every assistant

can obtain some benefit by the perusal of his letter, for it shows the views of an intelligent man on present-day pharmacy. Any movement that can enable the greatest possible number of qualified assistant pharmacists to become their own masters is worthy of support, but I agree with you, Sir, that any attempt to boycott the drug-companies would be a lamentable waste of time, money, and energy. It could only be done by the impossible taking place, such as by a law making it a penal offence for a qualified assistant to work for a drug-company, or by making pharmacy a "close" business, as in France, Germany, and elsewhere. In France, as is well known, none but a qualified man can own a pharmacy, and, besides, he must manage it himself. This seems to me to be the only ground on which agitation could be carried on with any prospect of success. Most people will think the task hopeless; doubtless it would be difficult, but I fail to see why Westminster wisdom should not do something towards protecting pharmacy as a profession, when so much is required of its votaries in the form of an expensive education and scientific attainments. Why should pharmacy-assistants be on no better footing than drapers' or grocers' assistants, whose sole qualifications are a good presence, a quick wit, and ready tongue? But there is the danger that protection would be the death-knell to competition, and the last state might be worse than the first. Pharmacy in France is by no means so flourishing as in England, in spite of the fact that any attempt at a combination amounting to a company, or individual trading under the name of a qualified man, or even a partnership, is quickly suppressed by the persuasive arm of the law. A French Assistants' Union exists in France, with its headquarters in Paris. The only thing of importance attempted by it so far is to try to obtain a uniform 9 P.M. closing hour, and this has not succeeded. Many French pharmacists believe that patent medicines are the octopus that is throttling their profession. The General Association of French Pharmacists are negotiating for the suppression of cutting, while an important section of provincial pharmacists want to get patents entirely suppressed. Such is, briefly, the state of French pharmacy, which has enjoyed the privilege of a "one-man" pharmacy for well nigh a hundred years. English company-pharmacy, in my opinion, is only on the threshold of its development. If it goes on unchecked we shall probably see before many years a gigantic trust combination, compared with which present-day companies are but trifles. What is to prevent the majority of pharmacies becoming more or less "tied" houses? This is a reason why, if assistants agitate at all, they ought to do so before their chief present bugbear has grown too large to fight.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

DIXI. (127/37.)

#### Prices of Anti-cutting Articles.

SIR,—Allow me through the medium of your paper to suggest to anti-cutting chemists to examine so-called protected articles before sending them out with confidence, and to lay before them what occurred to me.

Having occasion to recommend to a customer cascara capsules, I handed over a 1*s.* box of Dun's, the price being plainly marked outside. To my great annoyance my customer returned, bringing with him a paper similar to the enclosed, saying I had overcharged him, as the price was only 10*d.*, which price only is quoted inside, there being nothing outside to indicate 10*d.* as the price. Is this fair and honourable? Perhaps the trade will decide.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

FAIRNESS. (119/20.)

[We have obtained a box of Dun's cascara capsules, and find that the prices are given as our correspondent states—1*s.* being printed on box outside, and 10*d.* on circular inside. We should think that it is only necessary for us to call attention to this anomaly for it to be promptly remedied.—ED. *C. & D.*]

#### DISPENSING NOTES.

##### Opalescent or Clear Mixture.

SIR,—In making up the following mixture I find that one sample of tr. nuc. vom. gives a cloudy mixture, which, on

standing two days, deposits a flocculent precipitate, while another gives a perfectly clear mixture. Can you tell me which is correct, a clear or a cloudy mixture?

Ac. nitro-mur dil. ...	...	...	5ij.
Spt. chlorof. ...	...	...	5ij.
Tr. nuc. vom. ...	...	...	5ij.
Aq. ad. ...	...	...	5vj.

Yours truly,  
COUNTRY. (118/36.)

[Tincture of nux vomica of the present Pharmacopœia gives a slightly cloudy mixture when diluted with water, but not so marked as was the case with the old tincture.]

#### Dispensing-charges.

SIR,—I should be glad to have your readers' opinion as to the proper charge to make for following prescription. It has been dispensed at a London stores for 3s. 6d.

Syr. hypophosph. co. (Fellows') ...	...	...	5vj.
Liq. ferri perchlor. ...	...	...	5iss.
Quin. sulph. ...	...	...	5iv.
Syr. simplicis ...	...	...	5ij.
Aquam ad ...	...	...	5xij.

M.  
5ij. ex aq. f.d.s. p.c.

Yours truly,  
E. W. M. (119/28.)

#### Albumin in Lead and opium Lotion.

SIR,—Will you kindly let me know how the following should be mixed? It seems difficult to get it entirely free from coagulated particles.

Liq. plumb. subacet. ...	...	...	5ij.
Tr. opii ...	...	...	5iiss.
Alb. ovi ...	...	...	j.
Aq. dest. ad ...	...	...	5viij.

M. Ft. lot.

Yours truly,  
EUCLID. (120/23.)

[Apart from the curdy precipitate given by the laudanum and lead, the albumin forms an insoluble compound with the lead, which can only be made "fine" by considerable dilution—inapplicable in this case.]

#### Solidified Drops.

SIR,—Can you kindly explain why the following solution becomes on standing a semi-solid white mass?—

Atrop. sulph. ...	...	...	gr. 30.
Morph. sulph. ...	...	...	gr. j.
Aq. dest. ...	...	...	℥xv.

It was clear when made, and the solution made acid.

Very truly,  
EXON. (124/1.)

[Morphia sulphate is only soluble 1 in 24. The use of acid caused the formation of an acid sulphate, still less soluble. The use of acid was not permissible.]

#### Advice Wanted.

SIR,—Will you kindly inform me how to dispense the following prescriptions?—

Ext. belladonnæ ...	...	...	5ij.
Ac. tannici ...	...	...	5ss.
Morph. acet. ...	...	...	gr. viij.
Crem. hazelini ad ...	...	...	5j.

Ft. ungt.

Ext. cannab. indic. ...	...	...	gr. ss.
Ext. hyoscy. moll. ...	...	...	gr. iss.

Ft. pil.

Sodii bicarb. ...	...	...	5ij.
Salol. ...	...	...	5j.
Tr. hyoscy. ...	...	...	5iij.
Ac. borici ...	...	...	5j.
Muc. acaciæ ...	...	...	q.s.
Aq. menth. pip. ad ...	...	...	5vj.

M. Ft. mist.

Yours faithfully,  
RADIX. (112/70.)

[In the case of the ointment rub the extract to a thin smooth cream with a few drops of water before mixing with

the other ingredients. The excipient which the pills require is liquorice-powder (gr. j.) with tragacanth-powder (gr. ʒ). In the case of the mixture, the salol, being insoluble in water, must first be ground to a fine powder before mixing with a little peppermint-water and ʒss. mucilage of acacia, which the prescriber adds with this intention.]

### LEGAL QUERIES.

*We do not give legal opinions by post. Information regarding most legal matters in connection with pharmacy will be found in THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY, and in "Pharmacy and Poison Laws of the United Kingdom," and Alpe's "Handy-book of Medicine-stamp Duty."*

116/26. *Hope*.—You will find instructions for applying for a wine-retailer's licence in the DIARY, 1898, page 212, in the DIARY, 1897, page 218.

116.65. *United Counties*.—An unregistered person may carry on drug-stores and call them such. What he may not do is to keep open a shop for the sale of poisons. He can call himself a drug company if he likes, but this does not entitle him to keep open a shop for the sale of poisons; but if he forms and registers a company under the Joint-stock Companies Act he may then keep open shop for the sale of poisons, but even then only a registered person may actually sell the poisons. It would not be an infringement of the Apothecaries Act, nor in our opinion of any other Act, for a chemist to prescribe for any patient. To act as an apothecary he must both prescribe and supply the medicine.

120/30. *Kino*.—The law does not require a chemist to employ a qualified assistant in any of his branches; but it provides that if in any shop an unqualified person sells a scheduled poison, that unqualified person shall be liable to a penalty.

120/4. *Scotia*.—Although the railway company have acquired power to take your premises, it does not certainly follow that they will take them, and the Act would be a very unusual one if it compelled them to take them.

120/17. *A. W. E.*—It is not usual to withhold an assistant's wages during his absence through illness; nor is it legal to do so unless there is an express stipulation that this will be done.

121/14. *Locum*.—You being qualified can sell poisons or keep open shop for their sale; but your sister, not being qualified, cannot legally own the business or be a partner in it.

125/18. *Justice*, who is not a registered chemist and druggist, has received some handbills on which he is described as a chemist and druggist. He asks whether, as the mistake was not his, he may distribute the handbills? He certainly may not.

125/61. *Timon*.—Preparations of corrosive sublimate are legally in the same position as preparations of morphia. Corrosive sublimate itself is in Part 1 of the schedule, but preparations of it have been explicitly left in Part 2. We do not consider you need register the sale of the preparation you describe.

125/63. *Dens*.—The Dentists Act applies to the Isle of Wight, but not to the Channel Islands nor to the Isle of Man. A Bill for Jersey is now before the Legislative Assembly of that island. There is a Dentists Act in Victoria, but we cannot tell you for certain about the other colonies.

122/27. *Cinchona*.—We do not think anyone could have a copyright in such a simple piece of literary work as the indication of the dose of children's powders. But, for all that, we should try to express the same thing a little differently. It is bad form to copy.

127/65. *Cher Ami*.—If you pay a 5l. 5s. fee for the Minor examination any time before the new regulations come into operation you will be entitled to go up for as many subsequent Minors as you need at 3l. 3s. each.



126/74. *D. B.*—It may be doubtful whether it is strictly legal to trade as a chemist and druggist in a name different to your own. But as it is done by the President and by several ex-Presidents of the Pharmaceutical Society you may safely follow. Labels for poisons should bear the name of the firm whose name you assume.

## MISCELLANEOUS INQUIRIES.

We reply to our subscribers and their employés only; queries must, therefore, be authenticated by the name and address of the subscriber. When more than one query is sent write each on a separate piece of paper. When a sample accompanies a query full particulars regarding the origin and use of the sample must be given, and the name of the querist should be placed on the sample. Queries are not replied to by post.

### 114/12. *H. G.*—Artificial Mushroom-ketchup:—

Porter ... ..	Oij.
Cheap sherry ... ..	Oj.
Anchovies ... ..	5iv.
Shallots ... ..	5iv.
Mace ... ..	5ss.
Nutmegs ... ..	5ss.
Ginger ... ..	5ss.
Black pepper ... ..	5ss.
Formalin ... ..	5ss.

Pulp the anchovies and mix with the porter and sherry. Heat to boiling, and pour on the other ingredients previously bruised. When cold add the formalin and macerate fourteen days with agitation, then decant and bottle the clear portion.

115/7. *W. J.*—There is no remedy for malt extract that has gone solid.

### 115/38. *Thankful.*—Non-excisable Coca-wine:—

Ext. cocae liq. (5 per cent. alkaloid)	5iss.
Cocain. hydroch. ... ..	gr. vj.
Vin. malagae ad ... ..	Oj.

M.

This formula is drawn up to contain  $\frac{1}{2}$  gr. cocaine per oz., but every retailer who makes his own preparation must submit his formula and sample of the wine to the local Inland Revenue supervisor for approval before selling.

118/2. *Ignorance.*—The following is the best way of making Soluble Essence of Lemon from lemon oil:—

Oil limonis ... ..	5j.
Mag. carb. levis ... ..	5j.
Spt. vini rect....	5viij.

Shake together and filter.

116/24. *E. W.*—The lorry on wheels for moving boxes, &c., about is obtainable from W. B. Fordham & Sons, York Road, King's Cross, N.

118/45. *Darent.*—(1) Perfumes like citronella and verberna are the most suited for disguising the odour of petroleum hair-wash. (2) Your inquiry for something that will cause the hair on a gentleman's head to get thinner and the growth less vigorous is the reverse of what we usually get asked. Advise your customer to be content with his hair as it is.

117/73. *F. R.*—Salicylic acid is the best addition you can make to keep glycerine and rose-water from becoming fungoid. About 10 gr. to the pint is the quantity to use.

115/45. *W. D.*—Starch Poultice (*Cataplasma feculæ*, L.):—

Potato starch ... ..	2 oz.
Mix with a little cold water and add—	
Boiling water ... ..	20 oz.

Then boil for an instant.

If it is required to add boric acid to this poultice, the above quantity will require 5j.

115/40. *Aniline.*—If you furnish the particulars we require (see head of this section), we will be pleased to attend to your query.

120/39. *Sapo* asks, "How far does the political outlook as to peace or war influence the price of essential oils?" War does not affect the price of articles unless (1) it disturbs the production in the country of origin, (2) interferes with transport, or (3) creates a greater or less demand for such articles. At present the great political disturbance in China has not in the slightest affected the markets for oil of star-anise, oil of cassia, and camphor.

120/33. *Anxious.*—It is melted pitch that is used for branding cattle with.

118/30. *F. G.*—(1) Three to five grains of powdered aconite is the dose for a horse. (2) Hay-spice:—

Aniseed ... ..	1 lb.
Fenugreek ... ..	1 lb.
Ginger ... ..	4 oz.
Cumin ... ..	4 oz.
Liquorice ... ..	1 lb.

Mix.

(3) Mixture for Inflammation of the Bowels in Lambs:—

Prepared chalk ... ..	5iv.
Aromatic confection ... ..	5j.
Tincture of opium ... ..	5j.
Water to ... ..	Oj.

A teaspoonful every two hours.

120/34. *Sanitas.*—A course of bromide and a clean mind will soon put matters right.

120/51. *Kimia.*—(1) Meldola's "Chemistry of Photography," or Abney's "Treatise on Photography" (in Longmans' Text-books of Science). (2) There is a process for preserving sails in which ammonio-sulphate of copper is used, which may be the process your customer was thinking of; its use, however, is covered by a patent.

### 121/65. *Bon.*—Eau de Quinine:—

Bals. Peru ... ..	5ij.
Glycerine ... ..	5iv.
Tincture cinchona ... ..	5iv.
Bay rum ... ..	5viij.
Water ... ..	5iv.

Macerate seven days with frequent shaking, and filter bright.

122/5. *F. W. B.*—Guaiacol carbonate contains 91.5 per cent. of pure guaiacol.

111/11. *Plumbum.*—Grit is separated from graphite by elutriation. We are inquiring into the other questions.

120/11. *Doubtful.*—Oil of regmer we take to be oil of origanum.

120/49. *Scot.*—We hope to announce the book, wherein aerated-water essences is treated, in a week or so.

### 120/31. *Toilet.*—(1) Violet-powder:—

Starch-powder ... ..	6 lbs.
Powdered orris-root... ..	1 lb.
Oil of bergamot ... ..	5viij.
Oil of neroli ... ..	℥xv.

Mix.

(2) French-polish:—

Shellac ... ..	5iij.
Benzoin ... ..	5ss.
Wood-naphtha ... ..	Oj.

Mix.

(3) We hope to announce the book in a week or so.

118/1. *Tanner.*—The defect in the piece of leather, looking like a grease-stain, is due to the "liming-bath" in the process of unhairing being too old. The hides from very fat cattle require the use of fresh and strong lime liquor. The defect cannot now be remedied.

107/2. *Potassium.*—Maycock's "First Book of Electricity and Magnetism" (Whittaker, 2s. 6d.) will we think suit you.

105/61. *Rob Roy.*—(1) You will learn all about the engineers' strike from the newspapers. (2) Dr. A. Wilson's "Manual of Health" (Longmans, 2s. 6d.). (3) Barrett's "Dental Surgery" (Lewis, 3s. 6d.).

119/40. *L. & Co.*—Swain's "Injuries and Diseases of the Knee-joint" (Churchill, 9s.). "The Art of Dispensing" is 3s. 6d.

103/31. *Gas*—Acetylene-gas Apparatus.—Read Holliday & Sons, Huddersfield, or Thorn & Hoddle, New Tothill Street, London, S.W., will supply you with several forms of apparatus for generating acetylene, which with ordinary care are quite safe in working.

117/67. *Leucas* (Barcelona).—(1) The simplest method of estimating cream of tartar "proper for people having some rudiments of chemistry" is the method given in Proctor's "Manual of Pharmaceutical Testing," published at the office of the *C. & D.* (2) Hurst's "Painters' Colours, Oils, and Varnishes" is a good book on the subject.

97/3. *C. P. M.*—Concentrated Peptonised-milk.—We are unable to give you from personal experience directions for the manufacture of this preparation, which is a speciality of a few houses. We understand that the milk is first peptonised (but not fully) in the ordinary manner,  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. of chopped fresh pancreas and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  dr. of sodium bicarbonate being used for each gallon of milk. After maintaining the heat at  $140^{\circ}$  F. for ten minutes the milk is strained, boiled, and evaporated (preferably *in vacuo*) to a third of its bulk, and preserved in sterilised bottles.

98/42. *Country*.—De-horning Calves.—As soon as the horns begin to appear an escharotic is applied, such as Vienna paste or plain caustic potash.

115/44. *C. A. J.*—To Stick Labels on Tin use a hot solution of 1 oz. of gelatine in 4 oz. of acetic acid, B.P. This never fails.

59/10. *Cocoa*.—In manufacturing cocoa it is first roasted, then the fat is expressed by hydraulic power, and the residual cake ground, and, with or without the addition of an alkaline carbonate, forms the "soluble" cocoa of the market. Messrs. Cadbury publish a book, "Cocoa, and All About It," which is a good popular description of the origin and manufacture.

103/24. *Zealandia*.—We should have liked to help you but enlarged toe-joint of long standing is exactly one of those things which no man but the surgeon can do much good in relieving the swelling. When the joints become painful apply lin. potass. iodid. e. sapone.

107/50. *Wahoo*.—The straw-hat polishes we have examined have all had a shellae basis. If you do not find aniline-colourings satisfactory you had better use vegetable-colours; a red, for instance, is made by macerating some alkanet-root in the shellae solution.

107/45. *J. A. C.*—You will be able to get thin sheets of celluloid from either of the following:—Guteman & Co., 35 and 36 Aldermanbury, E.C. (agents for the Celluloid Company), or the Rhenish Rubber and Celluloid Company, 38 Basinghall Street, E.C.

## INFORMATION WANTED.

*The Editor will be obliged for replies to the following from any who can furnish the information.*

118 23. Address of maker of Sheppey's Mel Rose tablets.

119/6. *G. & Co.* inquire who are the makers of "Tena-line" for worms in dogs, and where permanganate of iron can be obtained.

120/24. Name and address of proprietor of "Dawe's Foot-rot Paste"?

121/16. *W. A. C.* inquires where ferrie oxide and kies-el-guhr (as used in metal-polish) can be bought in wholesale quantities.

111/11. Makers of machinery for grinding and flaking graphite.

124/63. Name and address of the suppliers of Racine Soap.

126/16. Formula for ess. ammoniaci.

127/72. *T. R. P.* requires name and address of firms lending apparatus and diagrams for chemistry-lectures.

233/98. Who are the makers of tenalin or liquor tenalin?

128/66. Address of London agents for Guerlain's white eau de cologne.

## Coming Events.

*We insert notices of association and society meetings in this section free if they are sent to us, on postcards, by the Wednesday of the week before the meetings are to be held.*

### Monday, March 28.

*Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland*, 67 Lower Mount Street, Dublin. Evening meeting at 8 p.m. "Pharmacy: the Handmaid of Medicine." By Dr. H. A. Auchinleck.  
*Bradford and District Chemists' Association*, at 9 p.m. "Chats on Trade Topics." Mr. E. Mackay.  
*Aberdeen Pharmaceutical Association*, 21 Bridge Street, at 11 a.m. Special meeting.

### Tuesday, March 29.

*Poor-Law Dispensers' Association*, 112 Westminster Bridge Road, S.E., at 8 p.m. Special general meeting, when a memorial to the Local Government Board will be presented for signature.  
*Leicester Chemists' Social Union*. Annual dinner at Wyvern Hotel, at 8.30 p.m. Tickets 2s. 6d. each of Mr. F. W. Goodess, Hon. Secretary, Hotel Street, Leicester.

### Wednesday, March 30.

*Society of Arts*, John Street, Adelphi, W.C., at 8 p.m. "Telegraphy Across Space." By Professor S. P. Thompson, F.R.S.  
*Brighton Junior Association of Pharmacy*. Conversazione.  
*Newcastle-on-Tyne and District Chemists' Association*. Dinner at Metropole Hotel, West Clayton Street, at 8 p.m. Presentation of testimonial to Mr. Barnard S. Proctor, F.I.C. Tickets, 4s. each, may be had of Mr. G. F. Merson, 24 Newgate Street.

### Thursday, March 31.

*Chemists' Assistants' Association*, 73 Newman Street, W., at 9 p.m. "Alternation of Generations." By Mr. H. Matthews.  
*Chemical Society*, Burlington House, at 3 p.m. Annual general meeting.  
*Grimby and District Chemists' and Druggists' Association*. Annual general meeting at 7 p.m. at the Oberon Hotel. Annual dinner at 8 p.m.

### Friday, April 1.

*Irish Pharmacists' Assistants' Association*, Dublin, 67 Lower Mount Street, at 8.30 p.m. Debate, "Should the membership of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland be conferred by the payment of a yearly subscription, as at present, or by examination?"  
*Sheffield Microscopical Society*. Practical night at 8 p.m. Demonstration on "Pond Life." By Mr. G. T. Calvert.  
*Royal Institution of Great Britain*, Albemarle Street, Piccadilly, W., at 9 p.m. Lecture by Professor Dewar, F.R.S., on "Liquid Air as an Analytic Agent."

National Photographic and Allied Trades Exhibition will be held at the Portman Rooms, Baker Street, W., from April 22 to 30, from 12 noon to 10 p.m. Admission 1s. (photographic dealers allowed a rebate). Secretary, Mr. A. C. Brookes, Temple House, Temple Avenue, E.C.

Royal Photographic Society International Photographic Exhibition, Crystal Palace, will be opened by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales on April 25.

The after-Easter lecture arrangements at the Royal Institution include a course of three lectures on "Natural Philosophy," by Lord Rayleigh, F.R.S., two lectures by Dr. E. E. Klein on "Modern Methods, and their Achievements in Bacteriology," and discourses by Professor Gray, F.R.S., on "Magneto-optic Rotation," Professor Tilden, F.R.S., on "Recent Experiments on Certain of the Chemical Elements in Relation to Heat," Mr. W. H. M. Christie, F.R.S. (Astronomer Royal), on "The Recent Eclipse," and Mr. E. A. Minchin, M.A., on "Living Crystals."